

Hafa Adai!

7 advance to VOTM grand finale this Saturday. **PAGE 2**
Man fesses up to string of burglaries. **PAGE 4**

\$1

Saipan Tribune

THE CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER

Volume XXXIV, Issue No. 193

www.saipantribune.com

THURSDAY SEPTEMBER 26, 2024

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Dismissal of suit challenging Weapons Control Act sought

By **KIMBERLY B. ESMORES**
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REPORTER

The CNMI government has filed a motion with the U.S. District Court for the NMI to dismiss the lawsuit filed by an Army veteran against the Department of Public Safety and DPS Commissioner Anthony I. Macaranas challenging the CNMI's Weapons Control Act.

Last Tuesday, CNMI Chief Solicitor J. Robert Glass Jr. filed a motion asking the District Court for the NMI to dismiss the lawsuit of Army veteran Paul Murphy against DPS and Macaranas that challenges the CNMI's Weapons

Control Act; specifically, the local ban on gun silencers.

Glass' basis for dismissal is that Murphy failed to properly

serve defendant and fails to state a claim upon which relief may be granted.

See **DISMISSAL** on Page 4

Bill to increase tax on construction activities heads to governor's desk

By **KIMBERLY B. ESMORES**
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REPORTER

The House of Representatives has passed the Senate-amended version of House Bill 23-74 to essentially add a 3% tax on construction

activities. The bill has since been forwarded to the Office of the Governor.

Last Tuesday, following nearly an hour-long regular session, the House of Representatives passed H.B. 23-74

See **BILL** on Page 4

China test-fires intercontinental ballistic missile into Pacific Ocean



AP
Spectators wave Chinese flags as military vehicles carrying DF-41 nuclear ballistic missiles roll during a parade to commemorate the 70th anniversary of the founding of Communist China in Beijing on Oct. 1, 2019.

TAIPEI (AP)—China test-fired an intercontinental ballistic missile into the Pacific Ocean on Wednesday.

The ICBM carried a dummy warhead and fell into a

designated area of the sea, the Defense Ministry said in a statement.

The launch by the People's Liberation Army was part of

See **CHINA** on Page 4

Frontline heroes praised anew in 'We Will Never Forget' event



RACQUEL H. FLOYD

Attendees of the "We Will Never Forget: Field of Heroes" ceremony commemorating the tragic events of the 9/11 attacks pose for a group photo in front of American Memorial Park last Tuesday afternoon

By **RACQUEL H. FLOYD**

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CORRESPONDENT

Frontline heroes were applauded for their heroic actions during the "We Will Never Forget: Field of Heroes"

ceremony commemorating the tragic events of the 9/11 attacks that happened 23 years ago last Tuesday afternoon at the American Memorial Park's Court of Honor.

Tan Holdings Community Rela-

tions vice president Cathy Attao-Toves acknowledged the frontline responders during her remarks. She emphasized the importance of these heroes in ensuring the safety, protection, health, and freedom of

regular civilians.

"These heroes are the lifeline, ensuring that each of us, regular civilians, can experience life's blessings of safety, protection, health, and

See **HEROES** on Page 4

INSIDE



LOCAL

During a Climate Week event hosted by Patagonia on Monday evening, Indigenous elders, young ocean leaders, Pacific Island educators, and ocean-climate policy experts called on the Biden Administration to act on the President's commitment to the Pacific Remote Island.

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WORLD

President Joe Biden declared in his final address to the U.N. General Assembly on Tuesday that the U.S. must not retreat from the world.

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LIFE & STYLE

Another woman sued Sean "Diddy" Combs on Tuesday, alleging that the music mogul and his head of security raped her and recorded it on video at his New York recording studio in 2001.

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Local

7 advance to VOTM grand finale this Saturday

By **CHRYSTAL MARINO**
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CORRESPONDENT

The stage is set for the Voices of the Marianas Singing Competition grand finale and the final seven contestants are gearing up for the last show of this season on Saturday at the Crowne Plaza Resort Saipan in Garapan.

Advancing to the grand finale are Justin Tubera, Jason

Lizama, Johanna Mogar, Alyana Rotap, Karlymae Lizama, Franko Deleon Guerrero, and Donnarose Santiago as all seven will be going head-to-head to win this year's Voices of the Marianas.

VOTM and Save the Music Foundation-CNMI sergeant-at-arms Dwayne Castro applauded the contestants, sharing that they have truly left him speechless during the semifinals.

"I would hate to be in the judges' shoes right now, because, honestly, it's a pretty tight competition. You know, throughout the elimination round, I thought I had figured it out. But looking forward to the grand finale, I have no idea what to expect because the last round just kind of left me speechless. These guys came to compete and it shows with how they are strategizing this

through. With each elimination round, they just keep getting better and better."

Castro said this sets up a grand finale for the ages.

"They surprised me the last round and I feel like they got a lot more to show. I think they've been playing it safe the past two eliminations, until now. With the grand finale, I think they're going to lay it all on the table for the judges. I



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

The final seven contestants in this year's Voices of the Marianas Singing Competition pose with judges and Save the Music Foundation-CNMI board members last Saturday, Sept. 14, at the Crowne Plaza Resort Saipan in Garapan.

don't want to speak too much on every individual contestant right now, I would like the community to be able to see it for themselves."

He shared that while he's proud of all their contestants and the journey they have taken so far, VOTM was especially proud of their student contestants.

Castro said that they had several high school students who had auditioned for the competition, with Marianas High School's Lizama, Rotap, and Tubera making it into the grand finale.

"We really have young contenders right now and they're surprising everybody. So, for us at the Voices of the Marianas, seeing more of the youth coming out was one of our main goals for the Voices of the Marianas and Save the Music Foundation. We're really happy that we see a lot of the younger generation com-

ing out and competing. And they are doing really good! They went from the audition round to the elimination round, and now in the grand finale. And, yeah, they keep bringing new stuff to the table, just doing a great job, so yes, we are very proud of them"

He shared that the grand finale will begin at 1pm this Saturday at Crowne Plaza. "There will be no available refreshments inside the building this time, but the venue is going to be selling their own food outside the door."

Castro said that tickets are currently on sale at \$15 per person with 5 years old and under free. To buy a ticket he encouraged community members to contact any of the following numbers: (670) 783-1541, (670) 285-2507, (670) 287-5135, and (670) 287-5862 or check their Instagram and Facebook accounts @voicesofthemarianas.

'What's T Got To Do With It?' web series in the works

CNMI resident Valentina Rivera is working on a groundbreaking web series titled "What's T Got To Do With It?" which is a global documentary series that sheds light on the stories, struggles, and triumphs of the transgender community across the world.

In "What's T Got To Do With It?" a young transgender woman navigates the ups, downs, and hilarious realities of transitioning, identity, and self-acceptance, offering a comedic and heartfelt peek into the trials and triumphs of her daily life.

Rivera recently launched a Kickstarter campaign to raise \$11,500 in funds to complete this project, which aims to foster awareness, understanding, and acceptance. You can find more details about the project, which includes the poster and teaser, and support it through this link: <http://kck.st/3MJKICS>.

Rivera would greatly appreciate any help anyone can offer in promoting this campaign. Here are some ways you can assist:

■ Include the campaign in your newsletter: If you have a newsletter, we would love

for you to share our campaign with your community. We believe that by spreading the word, we can reach people who are passionate about LG-BTQ+ issues and willing to support the project.

■ Social media promotion: Sharing the campaign link on your social media channels would help us reach a wider audience. We have prepared posts and images that you can use to promote the project.

■ Direct referrals: If you know of any individuals, organizations, or groups that might be interested in supporting this initiative, please feel free to share the campaign with them.

"We are deeply passionate about this project and believe it can make a difference in the way transgender stories are told and understood globally. Any support—financial or promotional—would mean the world to us," said Rivera.

If you would like to discuss the project further or have any questions, feel free to contact Rivera at riverpictures07@gmail.com or follow all new updates of the project via Instagram @whatstgottodowithit. (PR)

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Rain to persist this week; thunderstorms on Rota, Guam

A classic wet season pattern will be in place across the CNMI and Guam this week while the trough and Invest 91W remains near, according to the National Weather Service in Tiyan, Guam.

NWS also said yesterday they are tracking a cluster of heavy thunderstorms in the coastal waters between Rota

and Guam. NWS said they are producing frequent lightning, so residents are advised to avoid boating near these thunderstorms. If these thunderstorms develop or move over land, flooding may become a concern.

Despite its disorganized existence, NWS said 91W will be the focus for showers, thun-

derstorms, and locally heavy rainfall through the end of the week. Residents of the CNMI and Guam should expect a mix of sun, episodic showers (locally heavy at times), and variable winds—south to southwest, south of the trough axis; light and variable near the axis, and south-east to east, to the north.

A weak tropical disturbance, Invest 91W, sits just east of Saipan and is a poorly defined circulation within the trough axis extending east-west through the CNMI. Rated as “sub low” for development by the Joint Typhoon Warning Center, 91W is not expected to develop significantly days as it moves west. However, 91W will be the focus of showers, locally heavy rainfall, thunderstorms and stronger gusts. Regardless of its prognosis, NWS will keep a close watch on 91W while it remains in the region.

Elsewhere across the Guam Area of Responsibility, there are no suspect areas for significant development. Tropical cyclone development is not expected at least

through the weekend.

Meanwhile, relatively fair weather prevailed across much of the NWS Guam Area of Responsibility last Tuesday, with the exception of the Marianas and Yap State. A surface trough and an embedded tropical disturbance, Invest 91W, will keep showers and thunderstorms nearby. Showers and thunderstorms are also across eastern Micronesia, associated with a couple surface troughs. A ridge of drier weather extends from Chuuk to south of Yap State and Palau.

For Yap State and Palau, NWS said fair weather wedges in from the southeast, with light winds in place at Palau and southwest winds at Yap.

Expect showers and thunderstorms to linger near Yap through much of the week as winds converge toward the trough to the north. Drier weather will prevail across Palau into the weekend.

Meanwhile, NWS said gentle winds and pleasant weather persisted across much of Chuuk, Pohnpei, Kosrae, and Majuro earlier this week. A surface trough near Kosrae will bring scattered showers to the state. Expect a benign weather pattern and light winds through the weekend across this region. Trades will increase early next week along with the likelihood for more showers.

For all the most up to date weather forecasts and information, visit NWS’ web page at www.weather.gov/gum. *(Saipan Tribune)*

‘Government exists to serve, not to rule’

Saipan Mayor Ramon “RB” B. Camacho echoes the sentiments of Guam Gov. Lou Leon Guerrero, agreeing that “Government exists to serve, not to rule.”

“The U.S. Constitution safeguards our freedoms and ensures that no government can overstep its bounds. It is a living document that reflects the will of the people, and it reminds us that the role of government is to protect and empower its citizens, not to exert control over them,” he said in a statement.

Camacho added that it has been 237 years since its signing on Sept. 17, 1787.

“It’s time to reflect on the importance and enduring significance of the United States Constitution—the cornerstone of our democracy and the rule

of law. It is a guiding principle that remains as vital today as it was at the founding of our nation,” he added.

Camacho also emphasized that the U.S. Constitution embodies the values of freedom, equality, and justice, and its opening words—“We the People”—serve as a powerful reminder that the true source of authority lies in the hands of the citizens.

“Elected leaders and public servants are entrusted to act in the best interests of the people they represent, ensuring that the government remains accountable to its citizens and committed to serving the common good.”

To this end, he said it’s important for the people of the CNMI recognize their power as citizens and their role in shaping

the future of the community.

“The U.S. Constitution guarantees our rights and establishes checks and balances to ensure that no one branch of government has unchecked power. This system encourages active participation from the people to hold their leaders accountable and to work towards a government that truly serves the needs of its people. As one government, let’s work together for the people who have entrusted us with the responsibility to serve them,” said Camacho.

For any questions or more information, contact the Saipan Mayor’s Office at (670) 234-6208. Office hours are Monday through Friday, 7:30am-4:30pm. The Saipan Mayor’s Office is also open through lunch. *(PR)*

Dog Control Program closed on Sept. 28

The Saipan Mayor’s Office’s Dog Control Program will be closed this Saturday Sept. 28, 2024.

For any emergencies or if urgent assistance is needed, contact (670) 788-7443


Normal operating hours will resume Monday, Sept. 30, 2024. *(PR)*

NOTICE OF DISSOLUTION

AMERICA ENERGY INC.

PMB 3538 BOX SAIPAN, MP 96950

Please take notice that America Energy Inc., a Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands corporation was dissolved effective September 24, 2024.


COMMONWEALTH UTILITIES CORPORATION
 Office of the Executive Director

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS
CUC-RFP-24-033
WAREHOUSE SPACE LEASE FOR CUC SAIPAN

The Office of the Executive Director, Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC) is soliciting competitive sealed proposals from firms for the lease of warehouse space for CUC Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

The proposed warehouse space must comply with DPW, OSHA and CNMI Zoning regulations.

The RFP Package may be obtained from the CUC Procurement and Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Saipan, between 7:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays, upon presentation of a receipt evidencing a non-refundable payment to the CUC Treasury Section, by cash, check or credit card in the amount of \$100.00 for one RFP package set followed by completion of registration with the CUC Procurement & Supply.

One (1) original and five (5) hard copies must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked “CUC-RFP-24-033, Warehouse Space Lease for CUC Saipan” to the CUC Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950, no later than 10:00 AM (ChST) on October 10, 2024. Proposals mailed via postal, or courier service must be received on or before the due date and time. Late submissions will not be considered.

Proposers are required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws. This proposal and the ensuing contract shall be executed pursuant to the CUC Procurement Regulations.

Discussions may be conducted with responsible offerors who submit proposals determined to be reasonably susceptible of being selected for award for the purpose of clarification and to ensure full understanding of and responsiveness to solicitation requirements. All proposers shall be accorded fair and equal treatment with respect to any opportunity for discussion. During discussions, there will be no disclosure of any information derived from proposals submitted by competing proposers.


All Proposers are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the Proposer due to lack of information or understanding of the proposal requirements during Contractor’s preparation of a proposal or supply under the contract. The RFP does not commit CUC to award a contract, pay any cost incurred in preparing the proposal under this request, or procure our contract for services.

Questions or requests for clarification will be entertained only from registered Proponents and must be submitted in writing **no later than 10:00 AM (ChST) on September 17, 2024** to Manny B. Sablan, CUC Purchasing Administrator, via email address manny.sablan@cucgov.org with a copy to Pepe Liwanag, CUC Warehouse Manager, via email at pepe.liwanag@cucgov.org and Marcela Tenorio, Senior Administrative Technician at marcela.tenorio@cucgov.org.

CUC reserves the right to reject any or all proposals for any reason and to waive any defects in said proposal, if in its sole opinion, to do so would be in the best interest of CUC. All proposals shall become the property of CUC.

KEVIN O. WATSON
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MANNY B. SABLAN
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Submit resume with on-island references to islandtrainingsolutions@gmail.com - attention to Jim Arenovski

Man fesses up to string of burglaries

By **CHRYSTAL MARINO**
chrystal_marino@saipantribune.com
CORRESPONDENT

The Superior Court has found probable cause to try a man who was arrested and allegedly confessed to several thefts on Saipan.

Yesterday at the Superior Court in Susupe, a preliminary hearing was held for Shawn Reyes, 33, who is currently facing charges of theft, burglary, and conspiracy to commit both crimes. Reyes appeared before Associate Judge Lilian Tenorio yesterday with his defense attorney Emily Thomsen.

During the hearing, prosecution from the Office of Attorney General, Heather Barcinas, called Department of Public Safety detective Catherine B. Pangelinan to share her encounter



Shawn Reyes is escorted back to the Department of Corrections following his preliminary hearing yesterday at the Superior Court in Susupe.

with Reyes and what she knew regarding the case.

Pangelinan recalled the first en-

counter with both Reyes and co-defendant Cherie Marie Delos Santos. She noted that police responded to a

burglary in Susupe on Sept. 12, 2024, where a victim reported the theft of two DJI drones, tools, car batteries, and luggage. The stolen items were valued at over \$4,000.

Last Sept. 13, police had initially stopped Reyes' car due to a busted left rear taillight. K9 officers, alerted to the scent of drugs, asked for consent to search the car and they eventually found the stolen goods.

Delos Santos eventually told officers Reyes broke into the house in Susupe twice and proceeded to lead them to several other places where Reyes had siphoned gas. "She led us to 12 cases," said Pangelinan.

She also said Delos Santos was the operator of the vehicle when Reyes did the deeds. Soon after, an arrest warrant was issued and officers executed the arrest on the same day.

Pangelinan shared to the court that Reyes also admitted to the crime,

leading officers to 14 other cases including the main burglary.

According to Pangelinan, Delos Santos said Reyes traded the drones for meth, while Reyes said he gave it to someone, whom DPS filed a search warrant for after.

Upon the facts that Reyes broke into the victim's home twice, and stole items on both occasions, the prosecution asked the court to add another count of burglary for the second break-in as well as theft. There were no objections from the defense.

Tenorio said that due to the testimony and documentation presented, the court finds probable cause to proceed to trial.

The co-defendant in the case, Delos Santos, was also present with her lawyer, but waived her right to a preliminary hearing. The duo will appear for their arraignment on Oct. 7, 2024 at 9 am.

HEROES

From page 1

freedom. May I ask all our community heroes, our law enforcement officers, our first responders, our military, our veterans, and healthcare utilities personnel to please stand up. Let's all give them all around of applause," said Attao-Toves.

The Field of Heroes event, according to Attao-Toves, is part of the Tan Siu Lin Foundation's efforts to give back to the community, particularly in the commemoration of the tragic events of 9/11. The event started in 2016, showcasing the bond of unity and strength of the people in the Commonwealth.

"It is one that is close to the heart of our CEO and president of Tan Holdings, Mr. Jerry Tan, along with Tan Holdings executives, corporation, and affiliates to commemorate the tragic events of 9/11 and the heroic deeds we saw, learn, and read to continue to tug at our hearts," added Attao-Toves.

She also reflected on the efforts of

responding, recovering, and healing from the events of 9/11, which took time and lives. She drew parallels to current global events, such as the fight against terrorism and natural disasters like super typhoons Soudelor and Yutu and the COVID-19 pandemic.

Attao-Toves also discussed the positive outcome of the pandemic in raising awareness about mental health and the importance of seeking help.

"The silver lining in the pandemic was that it created the platform to talk about mental health, how it's okay not to be okay, and to provide support services and resources to everybody, regardless of the demographic," said Attao-Toves.

In addition, the 24-hour Mental Health Hotline (988) and pressing 1 for the special line for veterans were introduced by Attao-Toves as a resource for those struggling with life's challenges.

Moreover, she expressed her appreciation to public and private partners who have supported the event and specifically thanked the National

Park Service, the Tinian Mayor's Office, and the Rota Mayor's Office for their gracious support.

Meanwhile, U.S. Army retired lieutenant colonel and Education Commissioner Dr. Lawrence Camacho, who served as the guest speaker, recalled the immediate deployment of 14 individuals from the American Red Cross-NMI Chapter to respond to the 9/11 attacks.

"I was in Virginia at that time, really kind of looking at this. But I did not know that soon and immediately after the attack, we have deployed 14 folks here out of our CNMI to come and respond at ground zero in New York, or in Washington, D.C., at the Pentagon, or even out in the crash-landing field of Flight 93. So, I'm really grateful that while I was away, still, there was a lot of things happening here to respond to that some very tragic event that our nation had to go through," he said.

A longer version of this story is available at www.saipantribune.com

DISMISSAL

From page 1

According to the motion for dismissal, Murphy filed his complaint last Sept. 3 indicating two causes of action; the denial of possession of certain "arms" violated Murphy's rights under the Second Amendment, and declaratory judgment that a 6 CMC § 2222 and Public Law 19-42 § 208(a)(2)1 are unconstitutional. In addition, Murphy sought an injunction prohibiting DPS and commissioner Macaranas from enforcing 6 CMC §§ 2222 and 10208(a)(2).

As to 6 CMC § 2222(a), it states that "It shall be unlawful for any person to knowingly manufacture, import, sell, ship, deliver, possess, transfer, or receive a firearm silencer, except as authorized by law."

Meanwhile, CNMI P.L. 19-42 §208(a)2 states "no person shall possess: A silencer, sound suppressor or sound moderator."

Glass explains that a summons was issued the same day and was allegedly served on Sgt. Gabriel Manglona of DPS.

"The return was filed Sept. 4, with

the server's alleged signature, but the printed name and title is that of Sgt. Gabriel Manglona, so it is unclear who served the summons and complaint. The P.O. box address that is included in the executed return is for the Law Office of Stephen J. Nutting," Glass said.

In addition, Glass asks that the court to dismiss with prejudice any claim regarding 6 CMC § 2222(a) as it no longer exists.

"The statute being challenged by plaintiff was repealed by the Legislature in Public Law 19-73 § 3 in 2016. The specific statute being challenged, 6 CMC § 2222(a), no longer exists. Thus, this court should dismiss any claim relating to 6 CMC § 2222(a) with prejudice because even if plaintiff were correct and the ban on sound suppressors, moderators, and silencers is unconstitutional it could not grant the relief requested in declaring a repealed statute unconstitutional," Glass said.

Chief Judge Ramona V. Manglona is set to hear the matter on Oct. 31.

In 2016, Murphy won his lawsuit against DPS, which he sued to stop the enforcement of the Commonwealth Weapons Act and the Special Act for

Firearms and Enforcement or SAFE.

In 2020, Murphy filed another complaint against DPS for enforcing gun law provisions found unconstitutional.

In his recent complaint, he based his lawsuit on 42 U.S.C. § 1983 for deprivation of civil rights under color of law, and is seeking declaratory and injunctive relief in challenging the CNMI's Weapons Control Act and the CNMI's SAFE Act.

Murphy said pursuant to the Covenant to establish a Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands in political union with the United States of America, the Second Amendment and the 14th Amendment to the United States Constitution are applicable to the CNMI.

In his lawsuit, Murphy stated that on Aug. 9, 2023, former DPS commissioner Clement R. Bermudes denied his request for firearm possession of a Maxim Defense POX-SD pistol chambered in 5.56 NATO with a built-in "soup can" suppressor.

On June 24, 2024, Bermudes' successor Macaranas allegedly denied Murphy's request for possession of a Banish 30 suppressor and a Ruger MKIV-SD Integral Suppressor .22-caliber pistol.

CHINA

From page 1

routine annual training.

It said the launch complied with international law and was not directed against any country or target.

It is unclear how often China conducts tests over such a distance. In 1980, China launched an ICBM into the South Pacific.

A map published in Chinese newspapers at the time showed the target area as roughly a circle in the center of a ring formed by the Solomon Islands, Nauru, the Gilbert Islands, Tuvalu, western Samoa, Fiji and the New Hebrides.

The U.S. and non-governmental organizations have said China has been building up its missile silos, but it's unclear how many missiles

and nuclear warheads it has added to its arsenal.

The People's Liberation Army, which functions as the ruling Communist Party's military wing, runs China's space program, which has established an orbital station and has ambitions to set up a Moon base and land a spacecraft on Mars.

Rocketry has long been part of China's development into a major global power, spurring nationalism and growth that has made China the world's second-largest economy.

The U.S. remains China's main global rival, although Japan, Taiwan, the Philippines and others have territorial disputes with Beijing that occasionally threaten to develop into military clashes.

China maintains a "no first use" of nuclear weapons policy, even as its desire for regional predominance grows.

BILL

From page 1

House Draft 1, Senate Substitute 1; a bill that was introduced by Rep. Ralph N. Yumul (Ind-Saipan) over a year ago to impose an additional 3% tax to the yearly gross revenue that is directly derived from construction activities for a period of three years.

Authored by Yumul last year, H.B. 23-74 originally proposed to impose a 3% tax on construction activities with an expenditure threshold of \$250,000.

The Senate Fiscal Affairs Committee increased this threshold to \$350,000.

H. B. 23-74, HD1, SS1 passed the House yesterday by a majority vote of 18-1 with Rep. Thomas John Manglona (R-Saipan) the only one in opposition of the bill's passage.

With the majority of the House in favor of passing the legislation, the bill now sits with Gov. Arnold I. Palacios for final approval.

"It's just not the right time...[to] impose taxes on the private sector" was the sentiment shared by Senate President Edith DeLeon Guerrero (D-Saipan) during a Senate session last week where House Bill 23-74, which would impose a 3% tax on construction activities, was passed.

During the said Senate session last week, H. B. 23-74, HD1, SS1 passed

with a majority vote of 7-2; the opposing two being DeLeon Guerrero and Sen. Dennis Mendiola (R-Rota).

Before voting on the bill, DeLeon Guerrero expressed that she believes it is not the right time to impose additional taxes on construction activities.

"It is not the right time to impose tax increases when we know that there are revenue activities being realized in at least one municipality here, Tinian, due to the military buildup. Tax increases will ultimately impact ordinary consumers, the people who are already suffering and can barely afford their family's bare necessities," she said.

DeLeon Guerrero further stated that raising taxes on a depressed economy, especially when businesses have yet to return to pre-pandemic levels, should not be the solution to the government's lack of financial management and economic initiatives to generate fresh revenue to fund its programs.

"It's just not the right time...[to] impose taxes on the private sector, which is the one producing revenues for the Commonwealth," she said.

Lastly, DeLeon Guerrero said hopefully, from all of the revenues that will be generated from construction activities on Tinian, a supplemental budget can be submitted to the Legislature allowing them to address financial shortfalls.

CHCC-PHS hosts community stakeholder meeting for CNMI health assessment

The Commonwealth Healthcare Corp.-Public Health Services organized a community stakeholder meeting at the Saipan World Resort Taga Hall last Sept. 10 as part of the CNMI Community Health Assessment to share data that was gathered and analyzed by a data workgroup that was formed to support the CHA.

A Community Health Assessment is a standard collaborative process that is typically conducted every five years by health departments. The meeting provided an opportunity to gather input from community



stakeholders regarding the data to inform the identification of key health issues that the CNMI should focus on.

The meeting was facilitated by the CHCC-PHS with support from Aleena Kawe and Theresa Carino of RedStar

International. Over 70 community stakeholders from organizations across the CNMI

engaged in the meeting, including non-profit organizations, government agencies,

Over 70 staff of non-profit organizations, government agencies, and community members took part in the community stakeholder meeting at the World Resort Taga Hall last Sept. 10.

and community members.

The Community Health Assessment project is supported by funds from the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention through the Public Health Infrastructure Grant Program. The CNMI CHA Report will be finalized and made available by December 2024. (PR)

OIA funds Close Up Program youth summits in the territories

WASHINGTON, D.C.—The U.S. Department of the Interior's Office of Insular Affairs announced that \$100,000 in Technical Assistance Program funds will be awarded to supplement the 2024 Insular Area Close Up Program previously announced in April 2024. This additional support will fund local youth summits in the territories of American Samoa, Guam, the CNMI, and the U.S. Virgin Islands where students will explore policies and laws important to territorial governments, legislatures, and local communities.

"We are pleased to support experiential learning opportunities for youth about the democratic, governmental institutions and important issues in each of the territories," said Carmen G. Cantor, assistant secretary for Insular and International Affairs. "This program plays an important

role in inspiring the next generation of civic leaders for the future, and to which we are fully committed."

Funded through the Office of Insular Affairs Technical Assistance Program since 1987, the Close Up Insular Areas Program provides civic education opportunities for students and educators from the Insular Areas both at the local and federal level. The Close Up Insular Areas Program has inspired many island leaders and continues to be supported every year by the U.S. Congress.

The Assistant Secretary for Insular and International Affairs carry out the secretary of the Interior's responsibilities for the U.S. territories of American Samoa, Guam, the CNMI, and the U.S. Virgin Islands. Additionally, OIA administers and oversees federal



Assistant Secretary for Insular and International Affairs Carmen G. Cantor

assistance under the Compacts of Free Association to the Federated States of Micronesia, the Republic of the Marshall Islands, and the Republic of Palau. The OIA also administers a discretionary Technical Assistance Program for all the Insular Areas. Find information about OIA and its work on www.doi.gov/oia, Facebook, X, and YouTube. (PR)

FOA looking for talent for David Ives' one-act plays

The Friends of the Arts, Saipan's community theatre, is opening its 2024-25 season with four David Ives' one-act plays. This is a fantastic opportunity for both directors and actors to work on some of the 20th century's best one-act plays.

Ives is an American playwright, screenwriter, and novelist. He is perhaps best known for his comic one-act plays. *The New York Times* in 1997 referred to him as the "maestro of the short form." Ives has also written dramatic plays, narrative stories, and screenplays, has adapted French 17th and 18th-century classical comedies, and adapted 33 musicals for New York City's Encores! series (from Wikipedia).

FOA will be drawing on three of the plays from perhaps his best known collection, "All In The Timing." In a review *The New York Times*

said "there is indeed a real heart ... There is sustenance as well as pure entertainment." Critic Vincent Canby wrote, "Ives [is] wizardly... magical and funny... a master of language. He uses words for their meanings, sounds and associations, spinning conceits of a sort I've not seen or heard before. He's an original." It won the Outer Critics Circle John Gassner Award for Playwriting, was included in Best Plays of 1993-1994, and in 1995-1996 was the most performed play in the country after William Shakespeare's plays (from Wikipedia).

Tryouts and interviews will be held at Marianas High School, in the theatre wing of the main cafeteria on Saturday, Sept. 28, and Sunday, Sept. 29, between 1pm and 4pm.

Contact FOA president Harold Easton at (670) 285-1657 for further information. (PR)

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Attorney for Petitioner Antonio B. Cabrera

**IN THE SUPERIOR COURT
FOR THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE
NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS**

IN THE MATTER OF: } Civil Action No.: 24-0211-CV
THE ESTATE OF: }
DANIEL CONCEPCION } **NOTICE OF HEARING**
CABRERA, } **NOTICE TO CREDITORS**
Decedent. }

**TO: ALL HEIRS, DEVISEES, LEGATEES AND CREDITORS OF:
DANIEL CONCEPCION CABRERA**

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that the petition of Antonio B. Cabrera for the issuance of letters of administration will be heard before the Honorable Joseph N. Camacho, Associate Judge, on the 3rd day of October, 2024, at 10:00 a.m., at Room 220A, Superior Court of the Northern Mariana Islands, Susupe Village, Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. All persons interested are hereby notified to appear at the hearing and show cause, if any, why the order should not be made.

For further particulars, please refer to the Petition on file herein, or contact counsel for Petitioner, Joey P. San Nicolas, P.O. Box 505335, Saipan, MP 96950; telephone (670) 287-1973 and email jpsn@sannicolaslawn.net.

Pursuant to Rule 11, NMI R. Prob., notice is hereby given to all creditors of the decedent, DANIEL CONCEPCION CABRERA, or of his estate, that they must file their claims with the Clerk of the Superior Court, Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, within sixty (60) days of the first publication of this Notice, or the claims will be forever barred.

Dated this 9th day of September, 2024.

/s/ Hon. JOSEPH N. CAMACHO
Associate Judge

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
BOARD OF PROFESSIONAL LICENSING
P.O. Box 502078, Bldg., 1242 Pohnpei Court
Capitol Hill, Saipan, MP 96950
Tel No: (670) 664-4809 Fax: (670) 664-4814
Email: info@cnmilicensing.gov.mp
Website: www.cnmilicensing.gov.mp

Pursuant to P. L. 8-41, Section 11, Governor Arnold I. Palacios and Lt. Governor David M. Apatang, through the Board of Professional Licensing (BPL) are hereby giving notice that it will hold its quarterly board meeting on **Thursday, September 26, 2024, at 10:00 a.m.** on Saipan. The meeting will be held at the Board's Conference Room at Bldg., #1242, Pohnpei Court, Capitol Hill, Saipan.

AGENDA

- I. Meeting Call to Order
- II. Determination of Quorum
- III. Review and Adoption of Agenda
- IV. Review and Adoption of Minutes
- V. Public Comments
- VI. Chairperson's Report
 - **Executive Director's contract renewal (for approval)**
- VII. Director's Report
- VIII. Investigator's Report
- IX. Communications from the Governor's Office & Legislature
 - A. Governor's Office
 - B. Legislature
- X. Old Business
- XI. New Business
- XII. Pending Applications for Board's Review
- XIII. Miscellaneous Business
- XIV. Executive Session: The Board may vote to meet in executive session to consult with counsel on pending or anticipated legal matters.
- XV. Announcements
 - A. Next Meeting Date
 - B. Adjournment of Meeting

**DIVISION OF PROCUREMENT SERVICES
CNMI GOVERNMENT**

REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL
RFP NO.: RFP24-GOV/OGM-42400113

SUBMISSION DATE: OCTOBER 17, 2024 TIME: 09:00 A.M.

**"SAN ANTONIO INDOOR BASKETBALL COURT
IMPROVEMENT PROJECT:
ARCHITECTURE & ENGINEERING SERVICES"**

COPIES OF THE SPECIFICATIONS MAY BE OBTAINED ON THE MUNIS VENDOR SELF SERVICE PORTAL (<https://selfservice.dof.gov.mp/vss/>) OR AT THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR OF PROCUREMENT SERVICES, LOCATED AT BLDG NO. 12386, ASCENSION DRIVE, CAPITOL HILL, SAIPAN, DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

QUESTIONS REGARDING THIS RFP MAY BE SENT TO ADMINISTRATOR OF OFFICE OF GRANTS MANAGEMENT, MR. EPIPHANIO E. CABRERA JR. AT EPI.CABRERA@GOV.MP BY 4:30 P.M. CHST., OCTOBER 08, 2024.

THE PROVISIONS OF THE CNMI PROCUREMENT REGULATIONS, NMIAC SECTION 70-30.3-305, 70-30.3-725 AND 70-30.3-730 PROHIBITING GRATUITIES, KICKBACKS AND CONTINGENT FEES SHALL APPLY.

THE CNMI GOVERNMENT RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY OR ALL BIDS, OR PORTIONS THEREOF, AND WAIVE IMMATERIAL DEFECTS IF TO DO SO WOULD BE IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE CNMI GOVERNMENT.

**/S/ EPIPHANIO E. CABRERA JR.
STATE ADMINISTRATOR, OGM**

**/S/ BRIEN S. NICHOLAS JR.
ACTING DIRECTOR, PS**

NORTHERN MARIANAS HOUSING CORPORATION
P.O. BOX 500514, Saipan, MP 96950-0514
Email: nmhc@nmhc.gov.mp • Website: <http://www.nmhc.gov.net>

PUBLIC NOTICE

Pursuant to Public Law 8-41, the Board of Directors of the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation (NMHC) through its Chairperson, hereby informs the General Public that the NMHC Board of Directors will hold its special meeting on Friday, September 27, 2024, at 9:00 a.m. The meeting will be held at the NMHC Conference Room, Garapan Saipan. The public is welcome to submit written or oral comments regarding the agenda below. Individuals interested in attending the meeting and needing special accommodations are requested to contact NMHC in advance.

PRELIMINARY MATTERS

- a. Call to Order
- b. Roll Call
- c. Adoption of Agenda

PUBLIC COMMENTS

CORPORATE DIRECTORS REPORT

- a. CDBG - DR Update
- b. FY 2024 Budget Financial Report

DEPUTY CORPORATE DIRECTORS REPORT

OLD BUSINESS

NEW BUSINESS

- a. Vista Homes (LIHTC)

LEGAL COUNSEL'S PENDING/ONGOING REPORT

EXECUTIVE SESSION

ADJOURNMENT

(Notes: Pursuant to Public Law 8-41, Section 13 (a)(7) and Section 13(c), the Board may vote to meet in executive session.)

/s/
Merced (Marcie) M. Tomokane
Chairperson of the Board

Opinion

Hafa Adai!

Saipan Tribune

THE CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER

Volume XXXIV, Issue No. 193

Published daily at 2/F JP Center,
Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, CNMI
Mailing Address: PMB 34, Box 10001, Saipan, MP, 96950

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MEMBER

AP The Associated Press

Pacific Islands News Association

EDITORIAL

Hezbollah: A measure of justice for terrorists who massacred 241 US Marines

Friday was a bad day for bad guys, as Hezbollah terrorists had two of its top gangsters offed in a targeted Israeli airstrike in Beirut that also took out more than a dozen other Hezbollah cutthroats. Now dead is Ibrahim Aqil, wanted for killing Americans. As U.S. National Security Advisor Jake Sullivan said, "Any time a terrorist who has murdered Americans is brought to justice, we believe that that is a good outcome." Agreed.

Friday was also when a Hezbollah money man pleaded guilty in Brooklyn federal court and faces years in prison. The pursuit of Hezbollah, Iran's terror proxy, must continue.

Last Tuesday, the pagers used by Hezbollah exploded in their hands and pockets and the next day went boom their walkie talkies. Israel booby-trapped their communications after Hezbollah's chief Hassan Nasrallah told his followers that their cell phones weren't safe from Israeli tracking.

Now their pagers aren't safe. And their walkie talkies aren't safe. So they have to meet in person, which is what happened Friday when an Israeli F-35 fighter jet blasted that building in Beirut where they were gathered.

Aqil became Hezbollah's top ranking military man after Fuad Shukr, who was knocked off by Israel in July. Aqil had a \$7 million bounty on his head from the U.S. State Department, issued April 18, 2023, on the 40th anniversary of Hezbollah's bombing of the American Embassy in Beirut.

The digital wanted poster from rewardsforjustice.net says: "During the 1980s, Aqil was a principal member of Hezbollah's terrorist cell the Islamic Jihad Organization, which claimed responsibility for the bombings of the U.S. Embassy in Beirut in April 1983, which killed 63 people, and the U.S. Marine Corps barracks in October 1983, which killed 241 U.S. personnel. Also in the 1980s, Aqil directed the taking of American and German hostages in Lebanon and held them there."

Uncle Sam also had a \$5 million price on Shukr for the atrocity against the peacekeeping Marines as they slept, but the web page for him, rewardsforjustice.net/rewards/fuad-shukr/ is dead, like he is, only saying: "Oops! That page can't be found 404"

Soon enough the rewardsforjustice.net web page for Aqil will also disappear.

The other high level killer wiped out was Ahmed Wahbi, the leader of Hezbollah's elite Radwan Force, along with a bunch of other Radwan commanders.

In a Brooklyn courtroom that same day, Mohammad Bazzi, identified by the feds as a "specially designated global terrorist," admitted to smuggling millions in cash to Hezbollah. Meanwhile, across the East River, at the United Nations, the Security Council debated pagers and walkie talkies.

The Lebanese foreign minister, who complained about the pager attack, never said the name of Hezbollah, which is a state within a state and is occupying his country's south and has used it as a base to launch 8,000 rockets against Israel starting on Oct. 8, in support of the Hamas attack on Israel. Since then, 60,000 Israelis have been displaced from their homes.

This despite Security Council Resolution 1701 from 2006, which required Hezbollah to pull away from the Lebanon/Is-

See **HEZBOLLAH** on Page 7



"WE BLAME THE PARENTS."

We should aim to be boring, at least when it comes to politics

American politics is anything but boring. That's not a good thing. A stable, even dull political order is a worthy goal. Just as the Founders ditched a political order that seemed to create, rather than solve, crises, we should look for ways to reduce chaos, turmoil and incompetence.

Chaos—real or imagined—creates excuses for politicians to advance extreme proposals. Amid the Korean War, President Harry Truman attempted to seize control of most of the country's steel mills. Congress had frequently refused to grant the executive the authority to take such drastic action. Truman persisted, and it's hard to blame him. An ongoing conflict puts incredible pressure on the president to do all that they think is necessary to secure victory (and maintain the public's support).

Thankfully, the Supreme Court used an expedited process to hear a legal challenge to Truman's aggressive act and denied the seizure. Ideally, though, such a rush job would not be required. Conflicts are unavoidable. Clashes between the branches, however, can be reduced by increasing deliberation among key officials and investing in scenario planning for bad outcomes.

Turmoil—real or imagined—breeds resentment that chips away at our sense of community. Political instability marked by swings between extreme partisan positions creates a sense that the government is incapable of focusing the needs of the people. Frustration arising from that inattention would ideally unify everyone to achieve mutual goals, but greater partisanship is usually what comes from gridlock. People seeking certainty turn to the party that promises to deliver just that. It comes as no surprise that researchers analyzing recent economic downturns have found that "group polarization, rising inequality, and economic decline may be strongly connected." Stemming any of those sources of turmoil is a step in the right direction. For instance, identifying, electing and reelecting folks willing to work across party lines can reduce excessive polarization. There's a reason the history books celebrate politicians like Sen. John McCain, who found ways to collaborate with Democrats and Republicans.

Incompetent governance—real or imagined—gives private interests a chance to accumulate excessive power by usurping public authority. When the government appears ineffective, private actors—be they corporations, oligarchs or interest groups—are quick to step in and fill the vacuum. The result is a system where public resources are funneled toward private gain, and public officials become beholden to those who wield economic

By **KEVIN FRAZIER**

The Fulcrum

Kevin Frazier is an assistant professor at the Crump College of Law at St. Thomas University and a Tarbell fellow.



power. This erosion of public trust in government competency opens the door for corruption, cronyism and regulatory capture, all of which deepen public disillusionment.

Worse still, when government fails to deliver basic services or respond to crises, the people turn to private solutions that are often inequitable and undemocratic. To prevent incompetence from empowering private interests, we must double down on investing in building and maintaining robust public institutions that can effectively serve the common good.

All these concerns are not new. In fact, chaos, turmoil and incompetence are why early Americans ditched the Articles of Confederation for the Constitution. Victory over the British did not result in immediate tranquility. Mobs, county committees and loyalists to the crown all made governing difficult. Obstinate states, unwilling or unable to contribute to national efforts, likewise hindered a smooth start to the new country. This status quo was unacceptable to the Founders. They were quick to see that so much unrest could undermine their bold project before it even reached its teenage years. To accelerate the maturation of the nation and to increase the odds of its success, James Madison and others designed a system to quell political winds from blowing in trouble.

We can and should heed the lesson learned by our forefathers. Simple steps can go a long way toward making politics a little more boring. To start, let's shorten the election period. The seemingly endless campaign cycle diminishes the odds of officials having the time and energy to focus on the task of actually governing. Another easy step would be to remove cameras from the Senate and House floor—freed from the pressure to try to make speeches go viral, legislators might engage in more substantive conversations. These are just a couple ideas—many more should be explored. A more boring America is possible and desirable.

Trump wants to turn the federal bureaucracy into an ‘army of suck-ups.’ Here’s how that would be a disaster

If former President Donald Trump wins the November election, he says one of his actions on “Day One,” right after he begins deporting millions of undocumented migrants, will be enacting a radical plan to force the federal bureaucracy to bow to his demands.

Like any president, Trump would undoubtedly stock the top levels of the government with loyal appointees. But he also intends to enforce his will by making it possible to fire lower-ranking federal employees for their political views.

“We will pass critical reforms making every executive branch employee fireable by the president,” Trump said early in his campaign. “The deep state must and will be brought to heel.”

The effects would be far-reaching.

If Trump gets his way, Justice Department prosecutors would immediately launch criminal investigations of President Biden, Vice President Kamala Harris, former President Obama and others who have incurred Trump’s wrath.

New appointees at the Internal Revenue Service would likely be ordered to audit prominent Democrats’ tax returns, an action Trump demanded during his first term.

Trump’s newest political ally, anti-vaccine crusader Robert F. Kennedy Jr., said last week that the nominee has asked him to oversee changes at the Food and Drug Administration, the National Institutes of Health and other public health agencies.

At the Pentagon, Trump has promised to fire senior military officers he considers “woke.” And he has vowed to purge the CIA and the FBI, accusing both agencies of “persecuting” conservatives and Christians in addition to investigating his 2016 presidential campaign.

Those jarring scenarios don’t spring from the imaginations of Trump’s critics. Trump has proposed them himself.

Underlying most of them is his promise to end civil service protections, a sweeping idea that has escaped public scrutiny because it is so wonky.

Trump said last year that he wants the authority to remove at will anyone he considers to be a “rogue bureaucrat.” “I will wield that power very aggressively,” he added.

Cabinet officials, agency chiefs and other political appointees are named to their jobs by the president and can already be fired at will.

But civil servants—officially nonpartisan officials who work under presidents of both parties—can be fired only for good cause, and they can appeal terminations to an independent review board.

The federal government’s civilian workforce of some 2.1 million includes only about 4,000 presidential appointees. Most of the others are civil servants, including FBI agents, NIH scientists, National Park rangers and IRS auditors—all of whom would be affected by the changes Trump has proposed.

‘An army of suck-ups’

Experts in federal administration say Trump’s proposal, known as “Schedule F” for the job category it would expand, is a bad idea.

“It would turn much of the civil service into an army of suck-ups,” said Robert Shea, a self-described conservative Republican who was a top official in the White House Office of Management and Budget under President George W. Bush.

Shea said he found civil servants’ untrammelled advice useful when he was a presidential appointee. “They told me when what I wanted to do was stupid. They advised me on whether it was legal or not,” he said. “But they also bent over backward to help me find better ways to do what we wanted to accomplish.”

The changes Trump has proposed, Shea said, “would mean that if you told your boss that what he or she was proposing was illegal, impractical [or] unwise, they could brand you as disloyal and terminate you.”

Donald F. Kettl, a retired professor of public administration at the University of Maryland, noted that if a new Trump administration fired just a few employees in each agency, the rest would quickly get the message.

“You could get transformation by intimidation,” he said.

Making civil servants fireable at will might sound at first as if it could make the bureaucracy more efficient. But in practice, it would open the way to more politically motivated decisions and abuses of power.

An IRS for auditing enemies

“The IRS is a perfectly good example,” Shea said. “If a political appointee asks someone to launch an audit without apparent cause, a civil servant could push back. But if Schedule F were in place, the civil servant could be fired.”

Retired Marine Gen. John F. Kelly, who served as Trump’s White House chief of staff in 2017 and 2018, said after Trump left office that the then-president had demanded that the IRS investigate several of his perceived enemies, including former FBI Director James B. Comey and Deputy Director Andrew G. McCabe.

The IRS, which was then headed by a Trump appointee, opened audits of both men’s tax returns after Kelly left the White House. A later investigation by the Treasury Department found no evidence that the audits were in response to Trump’s order.

Kelly told the New York Times in 2022 that Trump also wanted the IRS and the Justice Department to investigate former Secretary of State (and 2016 election rival) Hillary Clinton, former CIA Director John O. Brennan, Amazon founder Jeff Bezos and other people he saw as enemies.

“In a second term, there would no longer be a buffer of principled appointees who would stop him,” said Donald Moynihan, a University of Michigan professor.

Kettl noted that Project 2025, a policy blueprint prepared largely by former Trump aides, proposes making the IRS deputy commissioner in charge of enforcement, now a civil servant, into a presidential appointee. Trump has claimed he knows nothing about the report, although its lead author says he briefed the former president on its contents.

An anti-vax agenda at the FDA?

By **DOYLE MCMANUS**

Los Angeles Times

Doyle McManus is a columnist for the Los Angeles Times.



Even specialized agencies like the Food and Drug Administration would be vulnerable to the pressures created by Schedule F, Kettl warned.

What happens to scientists and policymakers at the FDA and other health agencies if Trump installs Kennedy and the anti-vaccine crusader pushes his lifelong agenda?

“Anyone who touches policy, or whose behavior seems to conflict with RFK [Jr.]’s policy positions, could be replaced. That certainly would apply to FDA’s role in approving vaccines,” Kettl said. “The potential for a massive shift is enormous. Will I be able to get a flu shot?”

Kennedy has said he’d like to change the focus of NIH, the world’s largest public funder of medical research, toward his favorite cause of chronic diseases like obesity and diabetes. “We’re going to give infectious disease a break for about eight years,” he said last year.

Justice Department

The Justice Department’s prosecutors have long prized a high degree of independence from political pressures. But Trump has said he wants the department to be “completely overhauled” and purged of anyone who participated in investigations of his past conduct.

“Since the Nixon administration, the department has made a commitment to pursue justice in a fair and evenhanded way, without political interference,” said Donald B. Ayer, who was the department’s second-ranking official under President George H.W. Bush. “But that commitment is a norm, not a law.”

“If you have a bad actor who wants to violate the rules, he can violate the rules,” he said.

Stripping career lawyers of civil service protections, he added, “could have a chilling effect on their willingness to give candid legal advice.” If those lawyers resign or are fired, he added, there may be no one left to object to Trump’s campaign of legal retribution. “Who’s going to stop him?” Ayer asked.

In Trump’s previous term, several of his top aides believed it was their duty to slow the president down when he proposed actions they considered illegal or unwise—such as his demand that the IRS audit his enemies, his suggestion that Army troops shoot unarmed demonstrators, or his frequent demands to pull the United States out of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization.

Trump later denounced those aides as “RINOs,” Republicans in name only, and promised to appoint true loyalists in a second term. There will be no moderating influences this time.

Combine that with Trump’s plan to end civil service protections, making internal dissent a firing offense, and you have a recipe for unrestrained one-man rule.

Putting Bibles in Oklahoma schools will never work

Oklahoma’s new law mandating Bible instruction in public schools violates the U.S. Constitution and courts should strike it down. In the meantime, however, local attitudes toward the law are providing a reminder about why the framers wanted to separate church and state—and why that principle remains as relevant as ever.

The relevant part of the Constitution is called the Establishment Clause and it’s part of the First Amendment: “Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion.” Its original purpose was more to protect religion from the state than vice versa. In particular, the framers understood that different religious denominations, even when they were nearly all Protestant, couldn’t agree on a single version of religion to be established nationally.

That same religious diversity, updated to the present, is the reason for the pushback to the Oklahoma law: Almost no one is likely to want someone from another denomination teaching the Bible to their kids. As Oklahoma parents told one superintendent, according to the New York Times, “That’s my job.” Others have pointed out “That’s why we have 8, 9, 10 churches in town.” And the more religiously committed you are, the less likely you are to accept generic Bible teaching in an otherwise secular school environment.

The historical background here is fascinating—and surprisingly relevant to today. By the time the First Amendment was drafted by James Madison and sent out for ratification by the states, the idea of an “established” church—like the Church of England—had become anathema in all 13 states. The New England states were still using their own unique system for funding religion, in which each town elected a minister (normally

Congregationalist) who was paid through taxes. Dissenters like Baptists and Quakers could opt out of paying that tax in order to protect their liberty of conscience. The New England Congregationalists hotly denied that the so-called “New England way” counted as an established church.

The basic idea of the Establishment Clause was that coercing people to pay taxes for religious purposes they didn’t share amounted to a violation of conscience. A nationally established religion would never satisfy those who belonged to different denominations. And indeed, that’s precisely the reason no one really objected to the Establishment Clause.

When public schools were invented and became popular in the early 1800s, the same dynamic played out at a local level. In Massachusetts, the educational innovator Horace Mann noted that there would be no way to teach religion in schools without offending some and maybe all denominations. The diversity of religious beliefs was simply too great. His solution was to read some Bible verses each morning without comment, a vision that felt non-denominational to many Protestants (although not to Catholics) until the Supreme Court struck down that practice in the early 1960s.

In Oklahoma today, there is some early indication that teaching the Bible isn’t going to be popular or even doable, for parallel reasons. Different Christian denominations disagree about how to understand the Bible and what it means.

Families want their kids to learn the Bible as they believe in it, not the way the public school teacher happens to see it. That’s to say nothing of Jews, Muslims, Hindus or nonreligious people.

These concerns closely resemble the reasons for adopting the Establishment Clause, namely the protection of individual con-

By **NOAH FELDMAN**

Bloomberg Opinion

Noah Feldman is a Bloomberg Opinion columnist. A professor of law at Harvard University, he is author, most recently, of “To Be a Jew Today: A New Guide to God, Israel, and the Jewish People.”



science and the recognition of religious diversity too great to be bridged by a single set of religious practices.

The upshot is that America’s religious diversity sometimes serves as a kind of fail-safe for violations of the Establishment Clause. The courts should act. But even if they don’t, establishment of religion isn’t likely to last long—or satisfy even those who wanted it in the first place.

In our religious difference, we are united in a basic recognition that we don’t want government to dictate religion. That’s worked for most of our history. It still works now.

HEZBOLLAH

From page 6

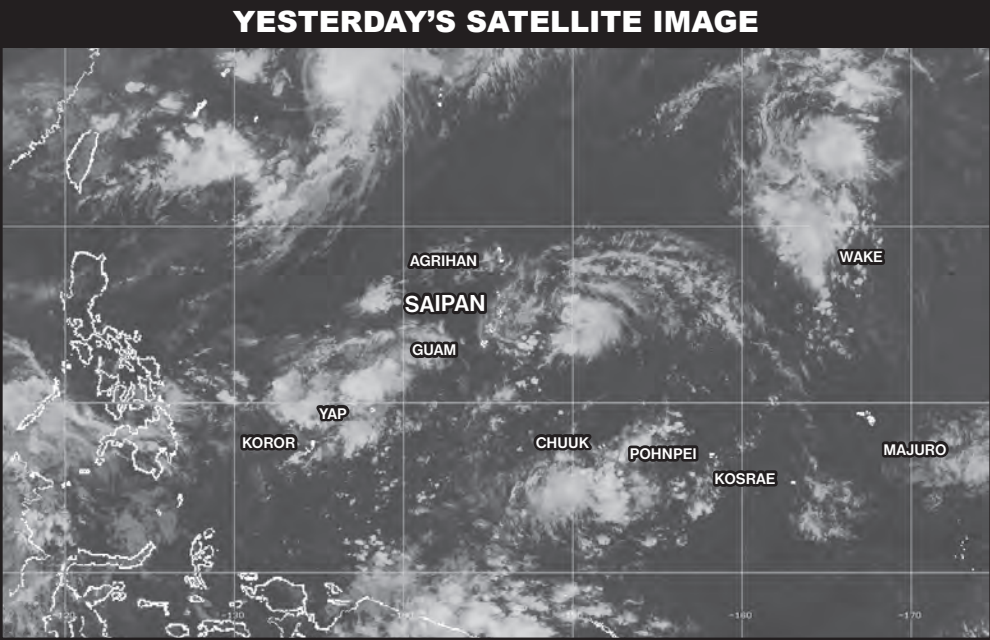
rael border to the Litani River, 18 miles from the international boundary. Enforce that and peace will return to both northern Israel and southern Lebanon.

The Iranian representative to the UN was incensed that Iran’s ambassador to Lebanon was injured by an exploding pager. He didn’t say why the ambassador had on him a Hezbollah terrorist pager.

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The Weather

5-DAY FORECAST FOR SAIPAN AND TINIAN									
TODAY		FRIDAY		SATURDAY		SUNDAY		MONDAY	
Partly sunny with scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms. South winds around 10 mph in the morning becoming light.		Partly sunny with a 40 percent chance of showers. Light and variable winds becoming south around 10 mph in the afternoon.		Mostly cloudy with a 50 percent chance of showers and a slight chance of thunderstorms.		Partly sunny with a 20 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms.		Mostly cloudy with a 20 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms.	
87°	79°	87°	79°	87°	78°	87°	78°	87°	78°



PICTURE TIME: 6:46 AM WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 25, 2024
Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

Guam Doppler weather radar shows scattered showers near Guam and numerous showers in the Northern Marianas. The buoys reveal combined seas of 3 to 5 feet, composed mainly of east trade-wind swell with a small west swell.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: <https://www.weather.gov/gum/>

MICRONESIA			▲ ▼ °F
Guam and Rota	Partly Cloudy	86° / 78°	
Palau	Partly Cloudy	85° / 78°	
Yap	Mostly Cloudy	86° / 79°	
Chuuk	Partly Cloudy	88° / 79°	
Pohnpei	Fair	88° / 78°	
Kosrae	Fair	88° / 78°	
Majuro	Fair	86° / 81°	
DAY	SUNRISE	SUNSET	
Today	6:06 AM	6:10 PM	
Friday	6:06 AM	6:09 PM	
Saturday	6:06 AM	6:08 PM	
Sunday	6:06 AM	6:07 PM	
Monday	6:06 AM	6:06 PM	
DAY	MOONRISE	MOONSET	MOONRISE
Today	12:22 AM	1:56 PM	-
Friday	1:20 AM	2:44 PM	-
Saturday	2:15 AM	3:27 PM	-
Sunday	3:06 AM	4:05 PM	-
Monday	3:55 AM	4:40 PM	-

AROUND THE GLOBE			▲ ▼ °F
Auckland	Mostly Sunny	63° / 52°	
Beijing	Sunny	73° / 48°	
Hong Kong	Mostly Sunny	91° / 82°	
Honolulu	Partly Cloudy	88° / 76°	
London	Partly Cloudy	70° / 57°	
Los Angeles	Sunny	85° / 65°	
Manila	Thunderstorms	90° / 79°	
Melbourne	Cloudy	61° / 45°	
Miami	Partly Cloudy	87° / 77°	
New York	Partly Cloudy	82° / 69°	
Osaka	Rain	75° / 64°	
Paris	Mostly Cloudy	72° / 57°	
Busan	Rain	75° / 64°	
Rome	Mostly Sunny	77° / 55°	
Salem	Mostly Sunny	92° / 68°	
San Francisco	Sunny	82° / 60°	
Seoul	Sunny	73° / 52°	
Tokyo	Rain	77° / 66°	
Washington, DC	Partly Cloudy	87° / 71°	

TIDES: SAIPAN HARBOR TODAY			FEET
12:34 AM	High Tide	1.57	
08:48 AM	Low Tide	0.01	
4:49 PM	High Tide	1.74	
10:17 PM	Low Tide	1.28	

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SUBSCRIPTION Published Monday to Friday, Saipan Tribune offers door-to-door on-island delivery at an annual rate of \$180. For additional subscription information, call (670) 235-8747 or 235-2769, or fax 235-3740.

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FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF SEPTEMBER 1, 2024							
DEPARTURES				ARRIVALS			
SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)				GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN			
UA076	9:50AM	10:35AM	Daily	UA174	8:00AM	8:50AM	Daily
SAIPAN- NARITA (NRT)				NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN			
UA824	11:50AM	2:25PM	1, 3, 5	UA825	5:30PM	10:00PM	2, 4, 7
GUAM-MANILA (MNL)				MANILA (MNL)-GUAM			
PR 111	5:55AM	7:55AM	Daily	UA184	10:25PM	4:15AM+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7
UA193	6:55PM	10:55PM	2, 5 via Palau	UA192	10:25PM	6:15AM+1	2, 5 via Palau
UA183	7:20PM	9:10PM	Daily	PR110	10:30PM	4:25AM+1	Daily
				UA184	11:50PM	5:40AM+1	2, 5
SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)				MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN			
7C3403/2305	4:45AM	10:20PM	Daily	UA192/174	10:25PM	8:50AM+1	2, 5 via Palau, Guam
UA076/183	9:50AM	9:10PM	Daily via Guam	UA184/174	10:25PM	8:50AM +1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via Guam
UA076/193	9:50AM	10:55PM	2, 5 via Guam, Palau	7C2306/3406	11:10PM	3:10PM+1	Daily
				UA184/174	11:50PM	8:50AM +1	2, 5 via Guam
SAIPAN-INCHEON (ICN)				INCHEON (ICN)-SAIPAN			
TW308	3:15AM	7:00AM	1, 2, 3, 4, 5 Sep 2-8	7C3406	9:30AM	3:10PM	Daily
TW308	3:15AM	7:00AM	1, 6, 7 Sep 9-15	7C3472	11:00AM	4:40PM	Sep 15-18
TW308	3:15AM	7:00AM	Daily Sep 16-22	TW307	8:30PM	2:15AM+1	7 Sep 1
TW308	3:15AM	7:00AM	1, 7 Sep 23-29	TW307	8:30PM	2:15AM+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 7 Sep 2-8
7C3403	4:45AM	8:35AM	Daily	TW307	8:30PM	2:15AM+1	1, 5, 6, 7 Sep 9-15
7C3405	4:10PM	7:45PM	Daily	TW307	8:30PM	2:15AM+1	Daily Sep 16-22
7C3471	5:50PM	9:30PM	Sep 15-18	TW307	8:30PM	2:15AM+1	1, 7 Sep 23-29
SAIPAN-HONG KONG (HKG)				HONG KONG (HKG)-SAIPAN			
HX77	3:05AM	6:00AM	1, 5	7C3404	10:10PM	3:40AM+1	Daily
				HX76	6:25PM	1:35AM+1	4, 7

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); UA United Airlines; PR, Philippine Airlines; TW, T'Way Air; OZ, Asiana Airlines; 7C, Jeju Air; BX, Air Busan • ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. *(The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)*

STAR MARIANAS AIR, INC.					
FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF JANUARY 2, 2024					
SAIPAN TO ROTA					
FLIGHT #	FROM	TO	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
1301	SAIPAN	ROTA	08:30	09:00	Daily
1302	SAIPAN	ROTA	10:30	11:00	Daily
1303	SAIPAN	ROTA	15:30	16:00	Daily
ROTA TO SAIPAN					
FLIGHT #	FROM	TO	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
3101	ROTA	SAIPAN	9:30	10:00	Daily
3102	ROTA	SAIPAN	11:30	12:00	Saturday & Sunday
3103	ROTA	SAIPAN	13:30	14:00	Monday To Friday
3104	ROTA	SAIPAN	16:30	17:00	Daily
ROTA TO GUAM					
FLIGHT #	FROM	TO	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
3401	ROTA	GUAM	11:30	12:00	Monday To Friday
GUAM TO ROTA					
FLIGHT #	FROM	TO	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
4301	GUAM	ROTA	12:30	13:00	Monday To Friday
SAIPAN TO TINIAN					
FLIGHT #	FROM	TO	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
1201	SAIPAN	TINIAN	7:30	7:45	Daily
1202	SAIPAN	TINIAN	8:00	8:15	Daily
1203	SAIPAN	TINIAN	9:00	9:15	Daily
1204	SAIPAN	TINIAN	10:00	10:15	Daily
1206	SAIPAN	TINIAN	14:00	14:15	Daily
1207	SAIPAN	TINIAN	15:00	15:15	Daily
1208	SAIPAN	TINIAN	16:00	16:15	Daily
1209	SAIPAN	TINIAN	17:00	17:15	Daily
TINIAN TO SAIPAN					
FLIGHT #	FROM	TO	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
2101	TINIAN	SAIPAN	8:00	8:15	Daily
2102	TINIAN	SAIPAN	8:30	8:45	Daily
2103	TINIAN	SAIPAN	9:30	9:45	Daily
2104	TINIAN	SAIPAN	10:30	10:45	Daily
2106	TINIAN	SAIPAN	14:30	14:45	Daily
2107	TINIAN	SAIPAN	15:30	15:45	Daily
2108	TINIAN	SAIPAN	16:30	16:45	Daily
2109	TINIAN	SAIPAN	17:30	17:45	Daily

Kerry, Indigenous leaders mark Climate Week by urging protection of the Pacific Remote Islands

NEW YORK, NY—During a Climate Week event hosted by Patagonia on Monday evening, Indigenous elders, young ocean leaders, Pacific Island educators, and ocean-climate policy experts called on the Biden Administration to act on the President's commitment to the Pacific Remote Islands, honoring Pacific Islanders' heritage and creating the world's largest highly protected marine area. The action would meet the America the Beautiful initiative's goal to protect 30% of U.S. marine waters by 2030 (30x30). In a video address released at the event, former U.S. secretary of State and Special Presidential Envoy for Climate John Kerry, via video remarks, expressed support for full protection of the Pacific Remote Islands, advancing the U.S. commitment to protect 30% of marine waters.

"The Pacific Remote Islands are among the world's last wild, healthy ocean ecosystems," said Kerry. "They hold an immense natural and cultural heritage, which now is even more vulnerable in the face of the climate crisis. Now is the moment to protect this special place to the fullest extent and to create the world's largest, highly protected marine area."

At Monday night's event, a panel of speakers shared stories urging ocean protection and its connection across communities. Along with Kerry's video address, Bodhi Pati, UN-recognized, award-winning Gen Z ocean-climate "Solutionist," Sabrina Suluai-Mahuka, the first American Samoan to win the Presidential Innovation Award for En-



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Former U.S. secretary of State and Special Presidential Envoy for Climate John Kerry makes a video address during last Monday's Climate Week in New York, New York.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
The Pacific Remote Islands are located in the central Pacific and are home to resilient coral reef ecosystems, including threatened and endangered wildlife of global conservation importance, such as seabirds, sharks, rays, sperm and blue whales, the leatherback sea turtle and deep-sea life found nowhere else on Earth.

vironmental Educators from the U.S. EPA for Region 9 and South Pacific Academy principal; Solomon Kaho'ohalahala, member of the Pacific Remote Islands Coalition, a seventh-generation Native Hawaiian descendant, kupa'aina, from the island of Lāna'i; and Lauren Swaddell, senior associate at The Pew Charitable Trusts, PRI Coalition member, and CHamoru from Guam.

Last year, to further ensure

protection of these fragile areas, President Biden directed action on the Pacific Remote Islands Coalition's request to designate the region as a national marine sanctuary, further expanding protections to 777,000 square miles.

The Pacific Remote Islands are located in the central Pacific and are home to resilient coral reef ecosystems, including threatened and endangered wildlife of global conservation



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Aside from John Kerry, other speakers during Climate Week were Bodhi Pati, Sabrina Suluai-Mahuka, Solomon Kaho'ohalahala, and Lauren Swaddell.

importance, such as seabirds, sharks, rays, sperm and blue whales, the leatherback sea turtle and deep-sea life found nowhere else on Earth.

The Pacific Remote Islands, in particular, have long held significance for Native Pacific Islanders' cross-oceanic migration, voyaging, and cultural practice and depend on healthy ecosystems with intact biological indicators. The islands and atolls hold deep historical significance for Marshallese, Hawaiians, CHamorus, and other Pacific Islanders.

"Our Kumulipo ties us to the ocean: where all life began," said Solomon Kaho'ohalahala. Speaking of the origin story and genealogy of Native Hawaiians, he says, "The Pacific Remote Islands are a source of our creation. We must care for—not extract—the places that hold our ancestral connections."

President Biden has demonstrated one of the strongest climate records of any U.S. president and initiated administrative action to fully protect the Pacific Remote Islands. At the request of the coalition, the administration further led

a renaming process, which gathered input from more than 16 nations, republics, commonwealths, states, territories, and countries across Oceania, to rename the area to one that recognizes the pre-colonization and heritage of Pacific Peoples in the region. Leaders from the PRI Coalition are encouraging the Biden Administration to meet his America the Beautiful 30x30 goal by expanding protections for the area and engaging in a collaborative process to design a co-management plan inclusive of Indigenous Pacific Islanders.

"Co-management is a pathway for shared stewardship with Indigenous communities," said Lauren Swaddell. "It's time for us to chart a new path, one in which Pacific Islanders from the U.S. territories are not only respected and listened to but at the decision-making table."

Community leaders expressed urgency in action to protect the ocean in the face of climate change and for the sake of future generations. "As Pasifika leaders, we understand that the protection of our oceans and the rich natural and cultural heritage of places like American Samoa can no longer

be left for future generations to solve. We — are the leaders we've been waiting for," says Sabrina Suluai-Mahuka. "The time to act is now because our youth deserve a future where their connection to the land and ocean is not just remembered, but preserved. I refuse to leave this burden to my daughter, to fix what should have been protected by my generation and those before us."

About the Pacific Remote Islands Coalition

Since 2014, the Pacific Remote Islands Coalition has worked to protect the cultural, natural and historical legacy of these special islands, atolls and reefs. Given the area's important ecological and cultural value, we are urging the Biden administration to fully expand protections for the Pacific Remote Islands. Our diverse network includes elders, fishers, educators, cultural practitioners, nonprofits, community groups, and scientists across the Pacific Islands and beyond. We are a coalition brought together by a love for the ocean that connects and sustains us. Learn more at www.protectpri.com. (PR)

Radewagen highlights House passage of VA funding and veterans' bills

WASHINGTON, D.C.—Delegate Uifa'atali Amata Radewagen (R-A. Samoa) is highlighting House passage recently of a necessary supplemental bill to ensure key veterans' services are funded, along with a slate of bipartisan Veterans' bills.

The House passed H.R. 9468, the Veterans Benefits Continuity and Accountability Supplemental Appropriations Act, which provides \$3 billion in mandatory funding for veteran benefits, addressing a VA shortfall this year that occurred despite appropriations increases for the VA. Additionally, the House passed these Veterans' bills:

■ H.R. 6324 — FY 2024 Veterans Affairs Major Medical Facility Authorization Act

■ H.R. 7777 — Veterans' Compensation Cost-of-Living Adjustment Act of 2024

■ H.R. 7100 — Prioritizing Veterans' Survivors Act



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Delegate Uifa'atali Amata Radewagen (R-A. Samoa) recently attended the Health Subcommittee hearing week examining the Veterans Crisis Line.

■ H.R. 4424 — Vietnam Veterans Liver Fluke Cancer Study Act

■ H.R. 7816 — Clear Communication for Veterans Claims Act

■ H.R. 7342 — Veterans Accessibility Advisory Com-

mittee Act of 2024

■ H.R. 5464 — To name the Department of Veterans Affairs community-based outpatient clinic in Guntersville, Alabama, as the "Colonel Ola Lee Mize Department of Veterans Affairs Clinic"

■ H.R. 4190 — Restoring Benefits to Defrauded Veterans Act

■ H.R. 2911 — Fairness for Servicemembers and their Families Act of 2024

■ H.R. 1432 — VETT (VSO Equal Tax Treatment) Act.

Radewagen said, "I am pleased that the House came together in looking out for our veterans with this additional funding to make sure that key VA services do not lapse. I'm also happy to let veterans know about House passage of this group of bills, as each one takes on a specific veterans' issue that was examined by the committee and communicated to us by veterans. Each year, we hear testimony directly from Veterans Service Organizations, as well as roundtables with veterans and hearings with expert witnesses, including many veterans." (PR)



IN SUPPORT OF THE PEACE CORPS

Delegate Uifa'atali Amata Radewagen (R-A. Samoa) met with Peace Corps director Carol Spahn recently. In Congress, Radewagen has supported the important efforts of the Peace Corps, including their much-needed work in the Pacific region, which they discussed in the meeting. Radewagen served as a Peace Corps staffer many years ago, and her daughter is a returned Peace Corps volunteer, who served in Bulgaria. Radewagen has worked for and cosponsored the reauthorization of the Peace Corps, including a boost in their budget for regional expansion.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

World

IN FAREWELL UN ADDRESS

Biden says peace still possible in Mideast, Ukraine

UNITED NATIONS (AP)—President Joe Biden declared in his final address to the U.N. General Assembly on Tuesday that the U.S. must not retreat from the world, as Israel and Hezbollah militants in Lebanon edged toward all-out war and Israel's bloody operation against Hamas in Gaza neared

the one-year mark.

Biden used his wide-ranging address to speak to a need to end the Middle East conflict and the 17-month-old civil war in Sudan and to highlight U.S. and Western allies' support for Kyiv since Russia invaded Ukraine in February 2022. He also raised concern over artificial

intelligence and its potential to be used for repression.

His appearance before the international body offered Biden one of his last high-profile opportunities as president to make the case to keep up robust support for Ukraine, which could be in doubt if former President Donald Trump defeats Vice President Kamala

Harris in November. Biden insisted that despite global conflicts, he remains hopeful for the future.

"I've seen a remarkable sweep of history," Biden said. "I know many look at the world today and see difficulties and react with despair but I do not."

"We are stronger than we

think" when the world acts together, he added.

Biden came to office promising to rejuvenate U.S. relations around the world and to extract the U.S. from "forever wars" in Afghanistan and Iraq that consumed American foreign policy over the last 20 years.

"I was determined to end it, and I did," Biden said of the Afghanistan exit, calling it a "hard decision but the right decision." He acknowledged that it was "accompanied by tragedy" with the deaths of 13 American troops and hundreds of Afghans in a suicide bombing during the chaotic withdrawal.

But his foreign policy legacy may ultimately be shaped by his administration's response to two of the biggest conflicts in Europe and the Middle East since World War II.

"There will always be forces that pull our countries apart," Biden said, rejecting "a desire to retreat from the world and go it alone." He said, "Our task, our test, is to make sure that the forces holding us together are stronger than the forces pulling us apart."

The Pentagon announced Monday that it was sending a small number of additional U.S. troops to the Middle East to supplement the roughly 40,000 already in the region. All the while, the White House insists Israel

and Hezbollah still have time to step back and de-escalate.

"Full scale war is not in anyone's interest," Biden said, and despite escalating violence, a diplomatic solution is the only path to peace.

Biden had a hopeful outlook for the Middle East when he addressed the U.N. just a year ago. In that speech, Biden spoke of a "sustainable, integrated Middle East" coming into view.

At the time, economic relations between Israel and some of its Arab neighbors were improving with implementation of the Abraham Accords that Israel signed with Bahrain, Morocco and the United Arab Emirates during the Trump administration.

Biden's team helped resolve a long-running Israel-Lebanon maritime dispute that had held back gas exploration in the region. And Israel-Saudi normalization talks were progressing, a game-changing alignment for the region if a deal could be landed.

"I suffer from an oxymoron: Irish optimism," Biden told Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu when they met on the sidelines of last year's U.N. gathering. He added, "If you and I, 10 years ago, were talking about normalization with Saudi Arabia ... I think we'd look at each other like, 'Who's been drinking what?'"

Deadly flooding in Central Europe made twice as likely by climate change

WASHINGTON (AP)—Human-caused climate change doubled the likelihood and intensified the heavy rains that led to devastating flooding in Central Europe earlier this month, a new flash study found.

Torrential rain in mid-September from Storm Boris pummeled a large part of central Europe, including Romania, Poland, Czechia, Austria, Hungary, Slovakia and Germany, and caused widespread damage. The floods killed 24 people, damaged bridges, submerged cars, left towns without power and in need of significant infrastructure repairs.

The severe four-day rainfall was "by far" the heaviest ever recorded in Central Europe and twice as likely because of warming from the burning of coal, oil and natural gas, World Weather Attribution, a collection of scientists that

run rapid climate attribution studies, said Wednesday from Europe. Climate change also made the rains between 7% and 20% more intense, the study found.

"Yet again, these floods highlight the devastating results of fossil fuel-driven warming," said Joyce Kimutai, the study's lead author and a climate researcher at Imperial College, London.

To test the influence of human-caused climate change, the team of scientists analyzed weather data and used climate models to compare how such events have changed since cooler preindustrial times to today. Such models simulate a world without the current 1.3 degrees Celsius (2.3 degrees Fahrenheit) of global warming since preindustrial times, and see how likely a rainfall event that severe would be in such a world.

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Life & Style

Woman alleges Sean ‘Diddy’ Combs raped her on video in latest lawsuit

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Another woman sued Sean “Diddy” Combs on Tuesday, alleging that the music mogul and his head of security raped her and recorded it on video at his New York recording studio in 2001.

The lawsuit filed in federal court in New York, the latest of several similar suits against Combs, comes a week after he was arrested and a federal sex trafficking indictment against him was unsealed.

Thalia Graves alleges that when she was 25 and dating an executive who worked for Combs in the summer of 2001, Combs and Joseph Sherman lured her to a meeting at Bad Boy Recording Studios. She said they picked her up in an SUV and during the ride gave her a drink “likely laced with a drug.”

According to the lawsuit, Graves lost consciousness

and awoke to find herself bound inside Combs’ office and lounge at the studio. The two men raped her, slapped her, slammed her head against a pool table and ignored her screams and cries for help, the lawsuit alleges.

At a news conference in Los Angeles with one of her attorneys, Gloria Allred, Graves said she has suffered from “flashbacks, nightmares and intrusive thoughts” in the years since.

“It has been hard for me to trust others to form healthy relationships or even feel safe in my own skin,” Graves said, crying as she read from a statement.

She said it is “a pain that reaches into your very core of who you are and leaves emotional scars that may never fully heal.”

Combs remains jailed without bail in New York on federal charges alleging that he ran



Thalia Graves attends a press conference on Tuesday, Sept. 24, 2024, in Los Angeles. Graves is suing Sean “Diddy” Combs, accusing Combs of sexual assault in 2001.

a vast network that facilitated sexual crimes and committed shocking acts of violence, using blackmail and other tactics to protect Combs and those close to him.

He pleaded not guilty to racketeering conspiracy and sex trafficking. His attorney

said he is innocent and will fight to clear his name. His representatives did not immediately respond to an email seeking comment on the latest lawsuit. There was no immediate indication from the lawsuit or from Combs’ representatives whether Sherman had

a separate attorney who could comment on the allegations.

The lawsuit was filed under the New York City Victims of Gender-Motivated Violence Protection Act, and comes during a two-year window that suspends legal deadlines and allows sexual assault victims to sue over abuse that might otherwise be too old to pursue.

Allred declined to say whether her client had spoken to investigators in Combs’ criminal case. The indictment in that case mentions only allegations since 2008.

Graves’ lawsuit also alleges that late last year, after Combs’ former singing protégé and girlfriend Cassie filed a lawsuit that began the surge of allegations against him, Graves learned through her former boyfriend that Combs had recorded her rape, shown it to others and sold it as pornography.

The Associated Press does not typically name people who say they have been sexually abused, unless they come forward publicly as Graves and Cassie, whose legal name is Casandra Ventura, have done.

Graves’ lawsuit says both Combs and Sherman contacted her multiple times in the years after the assault, threatening repercussions if she told anyone what had happened to her. She was in a divorce and custody fight at the time and feared losing her young son if she revealed anything, the suit says.

Graves said at the news conference that the guilt and shame attached “often made me feel worthless, isolated and sometimes responsible for what happened to me.”

The lawsuit seeks damages to be determined at trial and for all copies of the video to be accounted for and destroyed.

Prince Harry says harms of social media have created an ‘epidemic’ for today’s youth

NEW YORK (AP)—Prince Harry said today’s youth is in the midst of an “epidemic” of anxiety, depression and social isolation due to negative experiences online, as he brought his campaign to help children and their parents navigate cyberspace to this week’s Clinton Global Initiative.

“These platforms are designed to create addiction,” Harry, 40, said in remarks Tuesday in New York City. “Young people are kept there by mindless, endless, numbing scrolling—being forced content that no child

should ever be exposed to. This is not free will.”

Beyond supporting parents and youth throughout this advocacy, The Duke of Sussex stressed the need for corporate accountability. He asked why leaders of powerful social media companies are still held to the “lowest ethical standards”—and called on shareholders to demand tangible change.

“Parenting doesn’t end with the birth of a child. Neither does founding a company,” said Harry, who revealed that his smartphone lock screen is a photo of his children, five-

year-old Prince Archie and three-year-old Princess Lilibet. “We have a duty and a responsibility to see our creations through.”

Harry’s remarks arrive as pressures continue to mount on tech giants like Meta, Snap and TikTok to make their online platforms safer, particularly for younger users. Many children on these platforms are exposed to content that is not age appropriate, such as violence, or misinformation. Others face unrealistic beauty standards, bullying and sexual harassment.

Companies have made some

changes over the years—with Instagram, for example, announcing last week that it would be making teen accounts private by default in a handful of countries. But safety advocates have long-stressed that there’s more work to be done. Many also maintain that companies still put too much responsibility on parents when it comes to keeping children safe on social media.

Harry’s contribution to this year’s CGI annual meeting was part of the “What’s Working” theme, in a panel that included former President Bill

Clinton, Clinton Foundation Vice Chair Chelsea Clinton and World Central Kitchen founder Jose Andres.

The Archewell Foundation, which Harry founded with his wife, Meghan Markle, to carry out their philanthropic work recently launched an initiative supporting parents whose children have suffered or died due to online harms. Harry highlighted the work of that initiative, called The Parents Network, in his speech Tuesday.

The foundation has also partnered with the World Health Organization and others to end violence against children, an issue

he and Meghan outlined during a recent trip to Colombia. Harry on Tuesday pointed to the inaugural Global Ministerial Conference on Ending Violence Against Children, which is set to take place in Bogotá this November. He said that this meeting could result in the first global agreement for prioritizing child safety and protection online.

His CGI address was part of a string of appearances for Harry in New York at the growing number of humanitarian and philanthropic events that run alongside the United Nations General Assembly Week.

Long-term affair reaches new and uncertain period

DEAR ABBY: I have been in love with a married man for more than 16 years. It started before he married, but I was married at the time, so he married her. He always told me he wouldn’t leave his wife, but I hoped he would.

Three weeks ago, I told him I could no longer go on this way and to have a great life. Two weeks later, he emailed me asking if he was still in my heart and said he was having doubts about his marriage. We live 400 miles apart, but I drove to see him last weekend.

He told me he loved me, which he’s never admitted before, and said he isn’t sure what he’s going to do. Now I don’t know what to do, either, or how to act. Do I keep moving on to find someone else in case he doesn’t pick me, or contact him so he doesn’t lose sight of me?

HURTING HEART IN VIRGINIA

DEAR HURTING HEART: This person told you he would never leave his wife, and for 16 years he has stuck to his word. He told you he loves you BECAUSE YOU DREW THE LINE. This is his attempt to reel you back into a relationship that is headed nowhere. PLEASE, for your own sake, keep moving and do not contact him again.

■■■

DEAR ABBY: Nine years ago, I severed all ties with my mother-in-law after she accused my husband of sexually assaulting his sister when she was in her teens. His sister died nine years ago from starvation after she was diagnosed with schizophrenia. Since then, I have not spoken to his mother. However, two of my children are recently married. I’m starting to feel guilty for not telling her that her two grandchildren got married. Should I say something to her?

FEELING GUILTY IN ILLINOIS

DEAR FEELING GUILTY: I do think you should speak to her. It is a shame that she has lost both of her children. If you think it would make her feel better, you and your husband could tell her about the weddings — but only in the context of healing the breach that may have been created because of a delusion suffered by your late, mentally ill sister-in-law.

■■■

DEAR ABBY: My 21-year-old grandson is a dramatic and arrogant know-it-all. My issue is that he’s disrespectful to me, especially in social situations. He’ll roll his eyes or flap his arms around as if I have two heads. He’s actually mean-spirited. I’m not sure how to handle it. Should I simply ignore him, or should I confront him with how I feel?

MISERABLE GRANDMA IN OHIO

DEAR ABBY

BY ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.



DEAR GRANDMA: You should definitely tell him how you feel if you haven’t already done it. He’s acting like an overgrown adolescent. If his behavior continues, avoid him, if possible, as you would any other person who treats you with disrespect.

P.S. Also give serious consideration to “avoiding” him on his birthday, at Christmas, during graduation and any other gift-giving occasion.

■■■

Abby shares more than 100 of her favorite recipes in two booklets: “Abby’s Favorite Recipes” and “More Favorite Recipes by Dear Abby.” Send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for \$16 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby, Cookbooklet Set, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)

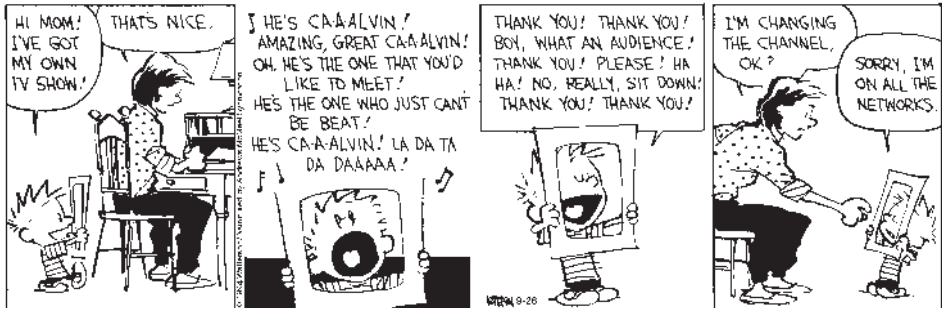
Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson

Garfield®

By Jim Davis



Adam@home

By Bryan Basset

The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy



CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS 1 "Mamma Mia" group 5 Kimono ties 9 Harpy 12 Beholds 13 Mentor 14 Sense of self 15 Tech work-stations 17 Con-ducted 18 Complete 19 Where the Styx flows 21 Baseball great 22 Caught sight of 24 Folk singer Phil 27 Year in Cancún 28 "The Voice" coach McEntire 31 Kanga's kid 32 Prohibit 33 MSN rival 34 Go sight-seeing

36 '50s president 37 Enfold 38 Peculiar 40 Circle ratio 41 "Top Chef" host 43 Mouthed off to 47 Paul Newman film 48 Just swell 51 Com-motion 52 Skin care brand 53 Garfield's pal 54 Comic Notaro 55 Diminutive suffix

56 Supplies with staff 16 Parched 20 — Lingus 22 Serpen-tine 23 Corn con-coction 24 Scrap 25 Bill's partner 26 Elvis hit 27 Slightly 29 Fluffy scarf 30 Swiss peak 35 Pirates' potation 37 Insight 39 Western resort lake 40 Salary 41 Excellent in slang 42 German car name 43 Terrier type 44 Fizzy drink 45 — "Brock-ovich" 46 Turns blue? 49 Last (Abbr.) 50 — King Cole

Solution time: 24 mins.

Yesterday's answer 9-26

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY:

Christina Milian, 43; Serena Williams, 43; Jim Caviezel, 56; Jeanie Buss, 63.

Happy Birthday: Look at life with curiosity and discover unique alternatives and various life-styles that offer comfort. Be open and receptive to suggestions, but don't be a follower when your happiness depends on taking the initiative to live and do things your way. Put your energy into things that matter and take a pass instead of arguing or trying to change others; focus on personal growth and gain instead. Your numbers are 4, 12, 21, 27, 32, 41, 44.

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Make plans; socializing will lead to exciting ideas that spark your imagination and introduce you to people, places and pastimes that encourage growth. Don't let someone's negativity or anger stand between you and doing what makes you happy. An opportunity to travel or learn something new will enlighten you. ****

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Keep busy and avoid emotional turmoil. Putting too much effort into trying to change someone will be futile. Look inward and concentrate on personal gains and providing for yourself. Protect your emotional and physical well-being and strive for independence and opportunities. Put yourself first. **

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Sign up for something that interests you, and you'll find an outlet that stimulates your mind and encourages you to engage in events and activities that promote learning new skills and developing unique friendships. Please don't settle for less; making your dreams come true is up to you. ****

CANCER (June 21-July 22): Stick to the basics and take care of necessities. Refuse to let anyone push you into an argument or make decisions. Focus on what's essential and

prioritize your physical and mental well-being. Broaden your circle of friends by attending a social or networking event. ***

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Communication will lead to exciting options. Gravitate toward those who can offer information and guidance. Getting the lowdown on something you may want to invest time and money into will help you make a better decision. Express interest, but only donate or spend what you can afford. ***

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Conversations will likely only partially represent what's possible. Immerse yourself in situations that allow you to see results firsthand. Knowing and seeing is believing, and it will give you the confidence to take the path most appropriate. Engineer and manifest what you want, and don't look back. ****

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Put your energy into finishing what you start, doing a stellar job and walking away knowing that you did the best you could in any situation you face. Stretch your imagination and discover something you enjoy doing that will generate extra cash. Opportunity is within reach. **

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Pay attention to what your body tells you. Listen to the signs and signals and approach your health and well-being holistically. Advocate on your behalf and you'll find the path to personal and professional success. Leave nothing to chance or in someone else's hands. Romance is favored. ****

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Embrace unfamiliar territory, offers or people instead of fearing or running away from change. Invest more time in learning and discovering what's available. You don't have to sign up for something, but you need to find your options and consider which prospects align with your goals. ****

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Take a close look at your financial, medical or legal situation and dissect any joint or shared deals that come your way. Partnership problems require an ironclad agreement before you enter the ring. Invest more time and money in yourself. Romance is on the rise. ***

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Spend more time reviewing what you have and want in order to invest more time nurturing your goal. A medical and financial plan offering security and stabilization will ease your mind. Attend informative events; socialize and network with people who can provide sound advice. Protect against illness or injury. ***

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): Step into the limelight and express your thoughts. The feedback you receive will be eye-opening and pave the path to promising alternatives. Focus on health, wealth and personal well-being. Set yourself up for success and quickly say no to anyone tempting you with indulgent behavior. *****

Birthday Baby: You are curious, talkative and entertaining. You are creative and determined.

☾: Avoid conflicts; work behind the scenes. ☼: You can accomplish, but don't rely on others. ☼☼: Focus and you'll reach your goals. ☼☼☼: Aim high; start new projects. ☼☼☼☼: Nothing can stop you; go for gold.

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku

By Dave Green



Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's Answer



Difficulty: ★★★ 9/26 ©2012 Conceptis Puzzles, Dist. by King Features Syndicate, Inc.

WONDERWORD

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally and even backward. Find them, circle each letter of the word and strike it off the list. The leftover letters spell the WONDERWORD.

THE POWER OF HUGS Solution: 6 letters

N I C O T Y X O S U P P O R T
E U H M E A N I N G F U L O H
W E R E R U S A E L P U U A E
B C R T A T E L P U O C P S R
O U F I U R E N S S H P R W A
R T U M M R T P D N I E E E P
N E L L D D E N O N N R M E E
O L F A E C A I E T D U O T U
I D I C I H S S R R O C C R T
N D L A D S S A A O O E L O I
A U L A M P E T S M S E F C
P C P I R D H T M R A W M L
M H M L O V E M O T I O N O O
O O E C A E P H S I R E H C S
C O N N E C T I O N O I N U E

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Admire, Calm, Cherish, Close, Comfort, Companion, Compassion, Connection, Couple, Cuddle, Cute, Dear, Emotion, Fulfill, Happiness, Heart, Hold Hands, Love, Meaningful, Mood, Newborn, Nurture, Oxytocin, Partner, Peace, Pets, Pleasure, Romance, Secure, Smile, Soul, Special, Support, Sweet, Therapeutic, Touch, Union, Warmth, Welcome
Yesterday's Answer: Treasures
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Cleveland clinches a first-round bye in the postseason



CLEVELAND

(AP)—Lane Thomas hit a two-run homer and drove in three, Josh Naylor had a pair of RBIs and the AL Central champion Cleveland Guardians clinched a first-round bye in the postseason with a 6-1 win over the Cincinnati Reds on Tuesday night.

Tanner Bibee (12-8) allowed one run on four hits in seven innings to win for the first time at home since July 19. The right-hander struck out seven in what could be his final outing until Game 1 of the ALDS.

Thomas and Kyle Manzardo both went deep against Carson Spiers (5-7) in a three-run first inning as the Guardians improved their AL-best home record to 49-28.

Cleveland will get five days off between the end of the regular season and the start of the division series on Oct. 5 at Progressive Field.

TIGERS 2, RAYS 1

(AP)—Tarik Skubal allowed two hits in seven scoreless innings and Detroit took another step toward an improbable postseason appearance with a victory over Tampa Bay.

Skubal (18-4), a leading candidate to win the AL Cy Young award, struck out seven batters while walking only one. He will get a chance for a 19th win on Sunday if the Tigers need him to beat the Chicago White Sox on the final day of the regular season to make the postseason.

The Tigers (83-74) began the day tied with Kansas City for the second and third wild-card spots — the Royals hold the tiebreaker—and one game ahead of the Minnesota Twins. Sellers at MLB's trade deadline, Detroit is an MLB-best 28-11 since Aug. 11.

Reliever Beau Brieske retired the first five batters he faced before Brandon Lowe homered with two outs in the ninth, pulling the Rays to within 2-1, but he struck out Josh Lowe for his first save.

BREWERS 7, PIRATES 2

(AP)—Willy Adames secured his first 30-20 season in Milwaukee's win over Pittsburgh.

Adames stole second after an infield single, his first of two hits, with one out in the second inning. It was the 20th stolen base for the seven-year veteran to go along with 32 home runs. He and 20-year-old rookie Jackson Chourio (21 homers, 21 stolen bases) are the first Brewers teammates to go 20-20 in the same season.

Hoby Milner (5-1) pitched a perfect fifth inning for the win in relief of Tobias Myers, who allowed two runs and six hits in the first four.

Adames was the first of four straight batters to reach against Bailey Falter (8-9) with one out in a three-run second. Rhys Hoskins walked after Adames' single and ahead of an RBI double from Sal Frelick. Joey Ortiz then dribbled a two-run single past a diving Nick Yorke at second base.

Pittsburgh answered with two runs in the bottom half. Jared Triolo hit an RBI single; Bryan De La Cruz scored on Yorke's sacrifice fly.

CUBS 10, PHILLIES 4

(AP)—Cody Bellinger tripled, singled twice and drove in four runs, and Chicago routed Philadelphia.

Kyle Schwarber hit his 38th homer of the season and Bryce Harper hit his 30th for the Phillies, who clinched their first NL East title in 13 years on Monday night. Manager Rob Thomson played his regular lineup, minus catcher J.T. Realmuto, as Philadelphia seeks to secure home-field advantage in the NL playoffs.

The Phillies (93-65) have four games remaining and need to finish at least tied with the Brewers to get a first-round playoff bye. Milwaukee beat Pittsburgh on Tuesday night to move within 2 1/2 games of the Phillies.

Philadelphia can also clinch home field through the NL Championship Series by ending the season tied with or ahead of the Los Angeles Dodgers.

BRAVES 5, METS 1

(AP)—Michael Harris II had three more hits, including a solo home run and an RBI double, and rookie Spencer Schwellenbach shut down New York again as Atlanta cruised to a win in the opener of a pivotal three-game series.

Atlanta trails the Mets by one game in the National League playoff race with five remaining. New York began the night a half-game ahead of Arizona for the second of three wild cards, while the Braves were 1 1/2 games behind the Diamondbacks.

Schwellenbach (8-7) threw seven strong innings, giving up one run and three hits while striking out four. He allowed one run and five hits while striking out 15 batters over 14 innings in two wins against the Mets this season.

MARLINS 4, TWINS 1

(AP)—



Cleveland Guardians' Jose Ramirez gestures after hitting a double in the seventh inning of a baseball game against the Cincinnati Reds in Cleveland, Tuesday, Sept. 24, 2024.

Cratering Minnesota took another step backward in the American League wild-card race, as Jonah Bride homered to spark a four-run second inning off Bailey Ober for the loss to Miami.

Bride had three hits, while Nick Fortes and Xavier Edwards each had two and helped fuel the defining rally in the second against Ober (12-8), who failed to finish six innings for just the second time in his last 17 starts.

The Twins (81-76), who have lost 23 of their last 34 games and 14 of 20, dropped to two games below the postseason cut behind both Detroit and Kansas City. The Tigers and Royals occupy the last two of the three wild-card spots, tied at 83-74. The Twins hold the tiebreakers after winning the season series against both of them, but there are only five games to go.

ROYALS 1, NATIONALS 0, 10 INNINGS

(AP)—Kyle Isbel snapped Kansas City's 27-inning scoreless streak by sprinting home on a throwing error in the 10th inning. Cole Ragans gave up three hits in six innings, and the Royals held on to the second American League wild card with a victory over Washington.

Isbel, the Royals' automatic runner to begin the 10th, reached third on Bobby Witt Jr.'s infield single to

short and crossed the plate on Nasim Nuñez's low throw to first to end Kansas City's seven-game slide.

Kansas City and Detroit are both 83-74 but the Royals own the head-to-head tiebreaker. Both teams are 1 1/2 games up on Minnesota.

ASTROS 4, MARINERS 3

(AP)—Jason Heyward hit a go-ahead, two-run homer and made a dazzling defensive play as Houston beat Seattle to clinch their fourth consecutive AL West championship.

Alex Bregman and Kyle Tucker each added a solo home run for the Astros, who are headed to the postseason for the eighth year in a row.

The Astros trailed by one with no outs in the fifth inning when Victor Caratini singled before moving to second on a sacrifice bunt by Jeremy Peña.

Heyward, who wowed on defense in the top of the inning, launched his home run to the second deck in right field off Logan Gilbert (8-12) to put Houston on top 4-3.

WHITE SOX 3, ANGELS 2

(AP)—The Chicago White Sox remained tied with the 1962 New York Mets for the modern major league record of 120 losses in a season, rallying to score three runs in the eighth inning and beat Los Angeles.

Andrew Benintendi hit a tiebreaking, two-out single to help the White Sox (37-120) stave off infamy for at least one more night.

Fans voiced their displeasure with White Sox owner Jerry Reinsdorf by chanting "Sell the team!" throughout the game and booed when Los Angeles' Eric Wagaman grounded out to end it, apparently unhappy they didn't get to witness history.

ORIOLES 5, YANKEES 3

(AP)—Baltimore clinched their second straight playoff berth, overcoming Aaron Judge's major league-leading 56th home run to beat New York.

The Orioles' win combined with Minnesota's loss to Miami nine minutes later assured Baltimore at least an American League wild card.

Anthony Santander hit his 44th home run and Ramón Urias and Colton Cowser also went deep for Baltimore (87-80), which closed within five games of the AL East-leading Yankees (92-65) with five games left. The Orioles' win clinched the season series and the tiebreaker against the Yankees, but Baltimore would have to finish 5-0 while New York goes 0-5 for the Orioles to finish atop the division.

RED SOX 6, BLUE JAYS 5, 10 INNINGS

(AP)—Trevor Story hit a tiebreaking double in a three-run 10th inning, and Boston rallied past Toronto.

Vaughn Grissom reached base four times, scored once and drove in a run as the Red Sox won their fourth straight.

Boston trailed 3-0 after six innings, scored two in the seventh and tied it in the eighth.

Story gave Boston its first lead with a one-out double off right-hander Tommy Nance (0-3) that began a three-run 10th. Pinch-hitter Connor Wong drove in a run with a grounder and Grissom added an RBI single.

Chris Martin (3-1) worked a scoreless ninth.

CARDINALS 7, ROCKIES 3

(AP)—Masyn Winn homered, doubled and drove in four runs, Lars Nootbar scored twice, and the St. Louis Cardinals beat the Colorado Rockies 7-3 on Tuesday night.

St. Louis rallied to spoil the beginning of the last home-stand of Charlie Blackmon's career with a run in the seventh and four in the eighth. Blackmon tripled and doubled.

The Cardinals tied it in the seventh when Colorado's

mistake on a comebacker to reliever Victor Vodnik loaded the bases, and Nootbar scored from third on short-stop Ezequiel Tovar's wild relay throw on a potential inning-ending double play.

St. Louis scored four runs in the eighth of Angel Chivilli (1-3) on RBI singles by Jordan Walker and Victor Scott II and Winn's two-run double.

GIANTS 11, DIAMONDBACKS 0

(AP)—Michael Conforto and Brett Wisely each hit three-run homers in San Francisco's six-run third inning, and the Giants won their fifth straight against playoff contenders by crushing Arizona.

The Giants have nearly perfected the role of spoiler recently, going 7-1 against Baltimore, Kansas City and Arizona. San Francisco stretched its season-high winning streak by bashing five homers against the Diamondbacks, including three off Brandon Pfaadt (10-10) in the first three innings.

Patrick Bailey hit a solo homer in the second inning, Conforto launched his 20th in the third and Wisely followed with his three-run homer to put the Giants up 7-0.

Tyler Fitzgerald hit a two-run homer and Heliot Ramos added a solo shot among his four hits. Logan Webb (13-10) allowed four hits in six scoreless innings.

ATHLETICS 5, RANGERS 4

(AP)—Jacob Wilson's single with one out in the ninth inning gave Oakland a victory over Texas in the opener of their final series at the Coliseum.

Zack Gelof stole second after leading the inning off with a single, and Wilson hit the first pitch he saw off Josh Sborz (2-2) into center field to win the game. A's closer Mason Miller (2-2) escaped a first-and-third jam with one out in the top of the ninth to keep the game tied.

PADRES 4, DODGERS 2

(AP)—San Diego clinched a playoff spot when they turned a triple play to preserve a 4-2 victory over the NL West-leading Los Angeles Dodgers.

With the Padres leading by three runs in the ninth inning Tuesday night, Kiké Hernández hit an RBI single that cut it to 4-2 and put runners at first and second.

Miguel Rojas hit a bouncer to Machado at third base, and he stepped on the bag before going around the horn for a game-ending triple play.

Retired NFL quarterback Brett Favre says he has Parkinson's



WASHINGTON (AP)—Retired NFL quarterback Brett Favre has been diagnosed with Parkinson's disease, he told a congressional committee Tuesday.

Favre made the disclosure as part of his testimony about a welfare misspending scandal in Mississippi. Favre, who does not face criminal charges, has repaid just over \$1 million in speaking fees funded by a welfare program in the state and was also an investor in a biotech company with ties to the case. The biotech firm has said it was developing concussion treatments.

The former football star, 54, told the committee that he lost his investment in the company that he thought "was developing a breakthrough concussion drug I thought would help others."

"As I'm sure you'll understand, while it's too late for me—I've recently been diagnosed with Parkinson's—this is also a cause dear to my



heart," Favre said.

What causes Parkinson's disease is unknown, and it is

unclear if Favre's disease is connected to his football career or head injuries. He said

on a radio show in 2022 that he estimates he may have experienced "thousands" of concussions in his two decades in the NFL.

According to the Parkinson's Foundation, scientists believe that the disease is caused by a combination of genetic and environmental factors, and those environmental factors "may include head injuries, pesticide exposure or area of residence."

Favre "is one of the 90,000 people in the U.S. who will be diagnosed with PD this year alone," said Parkinson's Foundation CEO John Lehr.

In the 2022 interview, Favre said he initially thought the number of concussions he had received playing football was low, but realized it could be much higher once he learned more about them, in-

cluding that they can happen without causing someone to lose consciousness.

During one 2004 game, Favre sustained a concussion but returned after sitting out only two plays and threw a touchdown pass without having been cleared to return to action.

The Super Bowl-winning quarterback appeared at the Republican-led House Ways and Means Committee hearing to advocate reform of the federal welfare system to better prevent fraud.

"The challenges my family and I have faced over the last three years—because certain government officials in Mississippi failed to protect federal TANF funds from fraud and abuse, and are unjustifiably trying to blame me, those challenges have hurt

Former NFL quarterback Brett Favre appears before the House Committee on Ways and Means on Capitol Hill, Tuesday, Sept. 24, 2024, in Washington.

my good name and are worse than anything I faced in football," Favre said.

House Republicans have said the scandal in Mississippi points to the need for an overhaul in the federal Temporary Assistance for Needy Families program. Favre says he provided services to the nonprofit that paid him with state funds, but the state auditor has said Favre did not show up for the speaking engagements.

Favre has said he didn't know the payments he received came from welfare funds and has noted his charity had provided millions of dollars to poor kids in his home state of Mississippi and in Wisconsin, where he played most of his career with the Green Bay Packers.

Favre was known for his durability during his Hall of Fame career. He had an NFL-record streak of 297 consecutive starts, a figure that goes up to 321 if playoff games are included.

He won three straight MVP awards with the Green Bay Packers from 1995-97. Favre led the 1996 Packers to their first Super Bowl title in nearly three decades and brought them back to the Super Bowl the following year.

Favre was with Green Bay from 1992-2007 and also played for the Atlanta Falcons (1991), New York Jets (2008) and Minnesota Vikings (2009-10). At the time of his retirement in 2011, Favre owned multiple NFL career passing records. He was inducted into the Pro Football Hall of Fame in 2016.

On Football: Plenty of parity in the NFL through 3 weeks

By **ROB MAADDI**
AP Pro Football Writer

Any given Sunday was more than a cliché in Week 3.

Six winless teams earned their first wins of the season. Nine road teams and eight underdogs were winners.

It's only September but the season has been unpredictable, just the way the NFL likes it. A league built on parity has seen plenty of competitive balance in the first three weeks.

Five teams remain undefeated: Chiefs, Bills, Steelers, Vikings and Seahawks. The Bengals, Jaguars and Titans are winless.

There's plenty of surprises in that group of eight teams.

Minnesota was a consensus pick for last place in the NFC North. Seattle has a first-year coach in Mike Macdonald. Pittsburgh is missing Russell Wilson but Justin Fields has filled in nicely. Buffalo was supposed to take a step back after losing several talented players.

Cincinnati was supposed to be a Super Bowl contender, but no team has ever reached that point after starting 0-3. Jacksonville was expected to contend for the AFC South.

But there are no guarantees in the NFL and that's been quite evident over the first three weeks.

Jayden Daniels led the Washington Commanders to the biggest upset of the week, a 38-33 victory on Monday night in Cincinnati.

The Commanders (2-1) were 7 1/2-point underdogs.

Maybe the oddsmakers overrated the Bengals. Daniels was outstanding, tossing two touchdown passes, running for another and setting an NFL rookie record by completing 91.3% of his passes (21 of 23).

Daniels, the No. 2 overall pick, has been the best rookie quarterback of the six selected in the first round.

Four other teams that were at least 5 1/2-point underdogs also won this week. The New York Giants beat Cleveland 21-15. The Denver Broncos, led by rookie QB Bo Nix, routed previously unbeaten Tampa Bay 26-7.

The injury-depleted Los Angeles Rams rallied for a 27-24 win over San Francisco. The Carolina Panthers, a 5 1/2-point underdog, defeated the Raiders 36-22 behind a stellar performance from Andy Dalton in his first start replacing Bryce Young.

Darnold's resurgence

Six years after the Jets thought Sam Darnold would be their franchise QB, he's playing like one for the Minnesota Vikings. Darnold has been impressive in his first season with coach Kevin O'Connell. He has 657 yards passing, eight touchdowns, two picks and a 117.3 passer rating in three games.

Darnold showed signs of progress late in the 2022 season in Carolina and spent last year backing up Brock Purdy in San Francisco. He signed a one-year, \$10 million deal to be a placeholder in Min-

nesota but rookie J.J. McCarthy sustained a season-ending knee injury and Darnold has thrived. If he keeps playing at this level, Darnold will make a ton of money in free agency.

Trevor's regression

Trevor Lawrence has regressed after the Jaguars gave him a \$275 million contract. It's not entirely his fault. He's not getting enough help from his offensive line, receivers and coaches.

Still, a \$55 million QB is paid to make plays and sometimes has to do it on his own. There was an opportunity for Lawrence to connect for a long gain with Jacksonville trailing Buffalo 20-3 in the second quarter on Monday night. He had an open receiver, a clean pocket and time to throw but sailed a pass that landed in Damar Hamlin's arms for an easy interception.

That's on Lawrence, not coaching, blocking, scheme, or routes. It happens. Quarterbacks make poor throws but the Jaguars needed better from him in that moment.

Dallas doomed 'D'

The Cowboys (1-2) can't stop the run and they can't run the football. That spells doom for most teams in the NFL. After an impressive opener for Mike Zimmer's defense in Cleveland, the Cowboys have been throttled at home by New Orleans and Baltimore. They've allowed 464 yards rushing in the two games and 10 touchdowns on the first 12 drives.

NFL upholds Chargers safety Derwin James Jr.'s 1-game suspension

Los Angeles Chargers safety Derwin James Jr.'s suspension was upheld by the NFL on Tuesday.

The decision was made by hearing officer Derrick Brooks, who was jointly appointed by the league and the players' union.

James was suspended one game without pay by the NFL on Monday for repeated violations of rules intended to protect players' health and safety. He has five unnecessary roughness penalties in his last 18 games, the most in the league by a defensive player. All five have involved blows to the head of an opponent with his shoulder or helmet.

According to contract data from the NFL Players Association, the one-game

suspension will cost him \$708,333 in salary.

Jon Runyan, the league's vice president of football operations, cited the league's ban on lowering the head and initiating contact with the helmet. Runyan pointed to James' targeting of Steelers tight end Pat Freiermuth during the third quarter of Sunday's 20-10 loss at Pittsburgh as the last straw.

"Your continued disregard for NFL playing rules will not be tolerated," Runyan wrote in a letter to James.

James said after the game that he didn't ask the referee why he was penalized.

"I'm not here to referee, I'm playing fast and not thinking about a flag," he said.

The Chargers (2-1) host Kansas City (3-0) on Sunday.

Chargers coach Jim Har-

baugh said Monday before the suspension was announced that he wasn't concerned about James being too aggressive.

"Keep Derwin doing Derwin," Harbaugh said. "He has found that sweet spot of playing aggressively and within the rules all at the same time. That is what I have noticed."

The seventh-year safety was also ejected from a Week 16 Monday night game at Indianapolis in 2022 for two personal fouls in three plays in the first half, including hitting Colts wide receiver Ashton Dulin with the crown of his helmet.

James was fined \$91,027 by the NFL last season for unnecessary roughness penalties and hits to defenseless players. (AP)

KobES, GES boast wins in elementary soccer

By LEIGH GASES
leigh_gases@saipantribune.com
REPORTER



Defending champions Koblerville Elementary School Umangs 1 and both of Garapan Elementary School's teams boasted wins in the 2024-2025 NMIFA-PSS Interscholastic Elementary School Soccer League last Friday at the NMI Soccer Training Center in Koblerville.

The Umangs made light work of Brilliant Star School 1, 6-0.

The goals were spread evenly in the first and second half as Liam Palacios got things started in the seventh minute. Palacios found the back of the net again in the 15th minute for a 2-0 game, and he went on to com-

plete the hat-trick in no time just four minutes later for a 3-0 advantage.

The first half came and went without a goal by BSS, despite attempts at the net. The Umangs then took their momentum in the second half, with an opener by Baylyn Mansfield to make it 4-0.

Mansfield nipped the net again 10 minutes later for a commanding 5-0 game. Then, Andrey Ray rounded off the Umangs score to six as they won in an emphatic 6-0 final after BSS failed to get on board.

As for GES Mallards 1, they overpowered the Mount Carmel School Knights 2, 9-0.

Keanu Pangelinan completed the hat-trick by the 33rd minute, then Jacob Borja and Evan Poole put up double goals each, while Leo Li contributed one. They scored four in the

first half with five in the second as the Knights could not find the back of the net throughout the game.

GES 2 then took on MCS 1 and won in a much closer matchup, 6-4.

The Knights tried to make for a comeback as they scored their fourth goal in the 40th minute after GES put up all six goals in the 38th, but time wasn't on their side and were short by two goals as time expired.

The Mallards' Pritam Roy led the team with five of the six goals, while Adrian Mercado contributed one. Meanwhile, Khoen Torres put up two goals and Thomas Flores scored one for MCS.

In other results that day, William S. Reyes 1 and Saipan Community School ended in a 5-5 draw; Gregorio T. Camacho Elementary School 2



File photo shows a Brilliant Star School player, foreground right, going up against a Koblerville Elementary School Umang player during their game in the 2024-2025 NMIFA-PSS Interscholastic Elementary School Soccer League at the NMI Soccer Training Center in Koblerville.

powered past WSR 2, 10-1; and GTC 1 silenced San Vicente Elementary School 1, 6-0.

Results of yesterday's games will be posted in the next issues of *Saipan Tribune*.

HARDT

From page 16

and the Best Coach was Jeff Garcia.

The event organizers, headed by Dexter Tenorio, founder of Madflex, said of the season, "I can't explain how happy I am because we accomplished what we wanted to happen in the basketball tournament for the youth."

The highlights of the tournament for him were not the games themselves, "but seeing the children happy and united, seeing the parents watching their children in the sport they love, [and] seeing the support of each other—that's the highlights of the whole tournament for me."

As for the next season, he said they have plans to host Season 2 next summer.

Tenorio then thanked all those who supported their basketball tournament. Major sponsors are Ali'i Inc., Blue Haus, Win Pacific Corp., J.T.M Corp., Hardt Eye Clinic, Legends Sports Club, Hybrid Shop, and R.H.F Marketing Services. He also thanked all the parents, the Madflex kids, Janelle Pangilinan and Nate Guerrero of Northern Marianas Sports Association and the Gilbert C. Ada Gym-

nasium, table officials, Erwin Lumanlan, Dick Tibayan, the coaches Dan Chan, Abel Caraig, Ed Guinto, Elmer Esdrelon, Jeff Garcia, Mike Surima, and Omar Ajoste. "Also, thanks to Mr. Rob Harrell, Ms. Cecille Camama, Mr. Jerry Diaz, my family, and coach Amor Zapata for arranging and carrying out this basketball tournament. And to God who made me an instrument for the simple dreams of the youth."

Hardt Eye Clinic 65 – Lucero 34, Navarro 24, Tibayan 2, Tenorio 2, Pelisamen 2, Dilao 1.

Bluehaus 63 – Tibayan 22, I. Ibarola 18, Lucero 12, Palacios 5, Ragbonshe 4, Y. Sapo 2.

HOSEI

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"It was our first time meeting and even though we didn't know each other or [or have an idea of their] swim competition history, they listened carefully to advice from us and immediately tried every skill. I thought it was really wonderful to see such a positive attitude, such as when they did something well and showed a wonderful smile when we praised them. For these reasons, I felt so happy to be able to visit Tsunami Saipan. I hope that they will continue to cherish this wonderful mindset and do their best. The Hosei University Swim Team is rooting for Tsunami Saipan!"

For Kanji Yamazaki, another mainstay of the Hosei University Swim Team, the Tsunami Saipan swimmers were a breath of fresh air because of their enthusiasm and eagerness to learn. "When I saw Tsunami Saipan

swimmers, I realized that their possibilities were so huge. Junior swimmers in Japan mostly grew up in programs that were too systematic, so in a good way they develop quickly, but in a bad way they have a fixed mindset. However, the Saipan swimmers all swam differently, and I felt like they were swimming by sense. Although the pool is small and the training environment is not the best, I wanted them to feel the tremendous potential they have and have fun swimming. Hosei's Juhn Tenorio will prove that this possibility is infinite!" he said.

Takeshi Hajiri, another Hosei University Swim Team member, said Tsunami Saipan swimmers make up for what they lack in technique with hard work.

"Even in that training environment, I was impressed to see how serious they were for swimming and how much fun they had. Looking at Tsunami Saipan, they need more in

technical skills, but I feel they have great potential and I'm really looking forward to seeing their future. I hope they always ask themselves 'What am I missing?' If they do that the challenges will be endless. It's okay to make it one by one, so don't give up until you complete it. Above all, I want Tsunami Saipan swimmers to enjoy swimming to the fullest. Let's go Tsunami Saipan!"

Kimura, meanwhile, said aside from the invaluable skills and technique Tsunami Saipan swimmers learned from the Hosei University Swim Team, he was also thrilled to reunite with Tenorio.

"I'm so really happy to see Juhn again at our pool! I'm an adult man who has spent more time with him than his dad. So, I felt my son had returned home. Also, I was very happy to see that he was loved so much by his seniors from the Hosei University Swim Team. Honestly, I'm overwhelmed by the fact that a swimmer

from Saipan is on the Hosei University Swim Team, which is a strong college team with a strong tradition. As long as Juhn stays healthy and work hard there, I'm thankful."

Tenorio and company were fresh from competing in the 2024 Japan Intercollegiate Championships set from Aug. 29 to Sept. 1.

It wasn't all work and no play though, as Miura, Yamazaki, Hajiri, and the rest of the Hosei University Swim Team got a grand tour of Saipan with no less than Tenorio serving as their tour guide.

"They went fishing, surfing, visited Mañagaha, enjoyed beach barbecue, etc. and generally had a good time with lots of island activities," added Kimura.

The rest of the Hosei University Swim Team who visited Saipan included team manager and senior Youji Oomura and women's senior swimmer and trainer Waka Imaizumi, who returned to Japan earlier.

NMI

From page 16

lead, 6-0, in the 40th. Ghaith Bader then put up their seventh goal in first half added time after NMI's tries for a push in UAE territory that came up empty.

UAE continued to show no mercy to an NMI squad that still played their hearts out on the pitch as the trio of Obaid Salem, Ahmed Alshammari, and Saif Nasser scored three for an even more commanding 10-0 game.

Nasser followed up in the 90th minute to rack up two goals for himself, while Salem scored his second in the 89th and completed his hat-trick just three minutes later.

In the end, UAE won, 13-0, as NMI were handed their second loss in as many games.

In their debut last Sunday, the NMI lost to host Kuwait, 0-6.

Today, the NMI is facing off against South Korea, then concludes their campaign against Lebanon on Saturday, Sept. 28.

Despite their tough matchup, team manager Mikky Vargas said that the team saw some improvements. "The technical improvements we have seen, especially against such a formidable opponent, are truly something to be proud of. Defensively, we saw them work as a unit, defending with numerical advantage when needed and fighting to win those high ball clearances.

Despite the pressure, there were moments where the boys managed to press the opponents and force turnovers. They have grown from simply reacting to actively trying to win the ball and transitioning immediately into attack, which is a big step forward."

On offense and attacking, she said they saw more cohesion. "The boys were able to build up their plays, make promising advances into the opponent's half, and even had a near-goal opportunity that kept everyone on the edge of their seats," she said. "The team has grown from just clearing the ball to working hard to connect passes and stay in control. Their ability to keep shape under pressure and maintain

composure, even when pressed by a faster, more skilled team, is a clear sign of their progress. They are no longer just clearing the ball—they are making thoughtful plays, which is a huge improvement from where we started."

With their match against South Korea, she said, "The boys are well aware of the challenge ahead, but with each game, they are showing more resilience and determination. We have seen them improve in all areas of play, and they are ready to leave it all on the field once again."

"As always, thank you all for your incredible support. The boys feel it with every message and word of encouragement, and it's driving them to push past their limits," she ended.

TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES				
MLB STANDINGS				
AMERICAN LEAGUE				
East Division				
	W	L	Pct	GB
z-New York	92	65	.586	—
z-Baltimore	87	70	.554	5
Boston	80	78	.506	12½
Tampa Bay	78	79	.497	14
Toronto	73	85	.462	19½
Central Division				
x-Cleveland	91	67	.576	—
Detroit	83	74	.529	7½
Kansas City	83	74	.529	7½
Minnesota	81	76	.516	9½
Chicago	37	120	.236	53½
West Division				
x-Houston	86	72	.544	—
Seattle	81	77	.513	5
Texas	74	83	.471	11½
Oakland	68	89	.433	17½
Los Angeles	63	94	.401	22½
NATIONAL LEAGUE				
East Division				
x-Philadelphia	93	65	.589	—
New York	87	70	.554	5½
Atlanta	86	71	.548	6½
Washington	69	88	.439	23½
Miami	58	99	.369	34½
Central Division				
x-Milwaukee	90	67	.573	—
Chicago	81	77	.513	9½
St. Louis	80	77	.510	10
Cincinnati	76	82	.481	14½
Pittsburgh	73	84	.465	17
West Division				
z-Los Angeles	93	64	.592	—
San Diego	91	66	.580	2
Arizona	87	71	.551	6½
San Francisco	79	79	.500	14½
Colorado	60	97	.382	33

x-clinched division
z-clinched playoff berth
BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



Cleveland clinches a first-round bye in the postseason
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KobES, GES boast wins in elementary soccer
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SAIPAN TRIBUNE

Hardt Eye lasers in on Madflex champs

By LEIGH GASES
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REPORTER

Hardt Eye Clinic lasered in on the championship of the Ali'i Inc./Madflex Sports Summer Youth Basketball Tour 2024 Season 1 after they beat Blue Haus, 65-63, in the finals last Saturday at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

The win didn't come easy for Hardt Eye as Blue Haus was a formidable opponent that actually led in the first half. But when it came down to it, Hardt Eye star shooter Christian Lucero secured the final two free throws that sealed their win in the final seconds of play.

Lucero and Jezpher Navarro were a dynamic duo that took their team out of a double-digit hole in a breath-taking comeback in the second half. Their explosiveness with the ball, coupled with the defensive prowess of teammate Letrell Pelisamen allowed them to knot up the game in no time and erase Blue Haus' hard-earned lead. Blue Haus' hefty cushion



contributed by Dane Tibayan, Ibrahim Ibarola, and John Lucero in the first half quickly dwindled as Hardt Eye locked in and stormed the court in the final minutes. The trio put up back-to-back shots but were kept pace by Lucero and Navarro until Blue Haus' lead was just a thing of the past.

In the end, Lucero put up a game-high 34 points followed by Navarro's 24. For Blue Haus, Tibayan scored 22, while Ibarola had 18 markers, and John Lucero had 12 points.

Third place was Win Pacific Corp. after they beat J.T.M., 76-67.

In the awards ceremony after the finals, the individual awards were



Championship team Hardt Eye Clinic poses for a group photo with their trophy and Ali'i Inc./Madflex Sports Summer Youth Basketball Tour 2024 Season 1 organizers and stakeholders during the awards ceremony last Saturday at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

presented.

The Mythical 5 were Dane Tibayan as Best Point Guard; Jezpher Navarro as Best Shooting Guard; Ibrahim Ibarola as Best Center; Carl Sanchez as Best Power Forward; and Webb Alano as Best Small Forward.

The Most Valuable

Player was Hardt Eye's Christian Lucero.

The Defensive Player of the League award went to Letrell Pelisamen.

The Most Improved Player was Kyrell Caraig.

The Leadership Award went to Webb Alano

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NMI improves game despite 0-13 loss against UAE

By LEIGH GASES
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REPORTER

The NMI U20 Men's National Soccer Team saw some technical improvements in their game despite a 0-13 loss to the United Arab Emirates in the Asian

Football Confederation U20 Asian Cup 2025 Qualifiers last Tuesday in Salmiya, Kuwait.

The Middle Easterners took their momentum into full stride against the islanders after their close



The NMI U20 Men's National Soccer Team starters for the game against United Arab Emirates pose for a group photo during the Asian Football Confederation U20 Asian Cup 2025 Qualifiers last Tuesday in Salmiya, Kuwait.

AFC U20 Men's National Soccer Team captain Daniell Pablo in action during their game against United Arab Emirates in the Asian Football Confederation U20 Asian Cup 2025 Qualifiers last Tuesday in Salmiya, Kuwait.

1-goal win against Lebanon.

After back-and-forth action and no one with the advantage yet, NMI players kept pace with UAE defensively. Even against another high-leverage team, NMI worked the pitch thoroughly until UAE's Yousif Ahmed cracked the goose eggs on the scoreboard with a goal in the 12th minute.

From there, UAE kept the goals coming as Hazim Abbaas put them up, 2-0. NMI managed to keep them down to just a two goal lead until Saif Alkaabi found an opening at the half-minute mark to make it 3-0.

UAE made it rain goals from then on in the second half as Eid Mohamed Alhammedi struck the fourth goal in the 36th. Abbaas then sent another one soaring to make it 5-0 just a couple minutes later.

The NMI keeper couldn't even catch a breather when Alhammedi extended their

See **NMI** on Page 15

Hosei University holds 1-day clinic on Saipan



Members of the Hosei University Swim Team and Tsunami Saipan Swimming Center pose for a group photo after their one-day clinic earlier this month.

By MARK RABAGO
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EDITOR

Juhn Tenorio and his teammates from the Hosei University Swim Team held an abbreviated one-day clinic for Tsunami Saipan Swimming Center



last Sept. 9. Tsunami Saipan head coach Hiroyuki Kimura said the clinic was supposed to be three days, but was cut short due to heavy rains.

Participating in the clinic were Tsunami Saipan swimmers Shoko Litolumar, Kouki Watanabe, Maria Batallones, Justin Ma, Richard Zhao, Sari Barman, and Maria Guerrero—all members of the club's Sensyu Class.

Hosei University Swim Team captain Sohta Miura

said Tsunami Saipan swimmers have the right attitude when it comes to swimming and training.

"What I thought when I saw Tsunami Saipan swimmers is that they have a good mindset. There are two reasons why I

thought so. The first is that all enjoy swimming together. The number of meets is limited in a year, and the local training environment is not particularly good when compared to Japan. However, I was surprised to see everyone enjoying swimming and doing so cheerfully and cheerfully, and I thought it was great," he said.

Miura said the second thing that impressed him was the swimmers' go get-it attitude.

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